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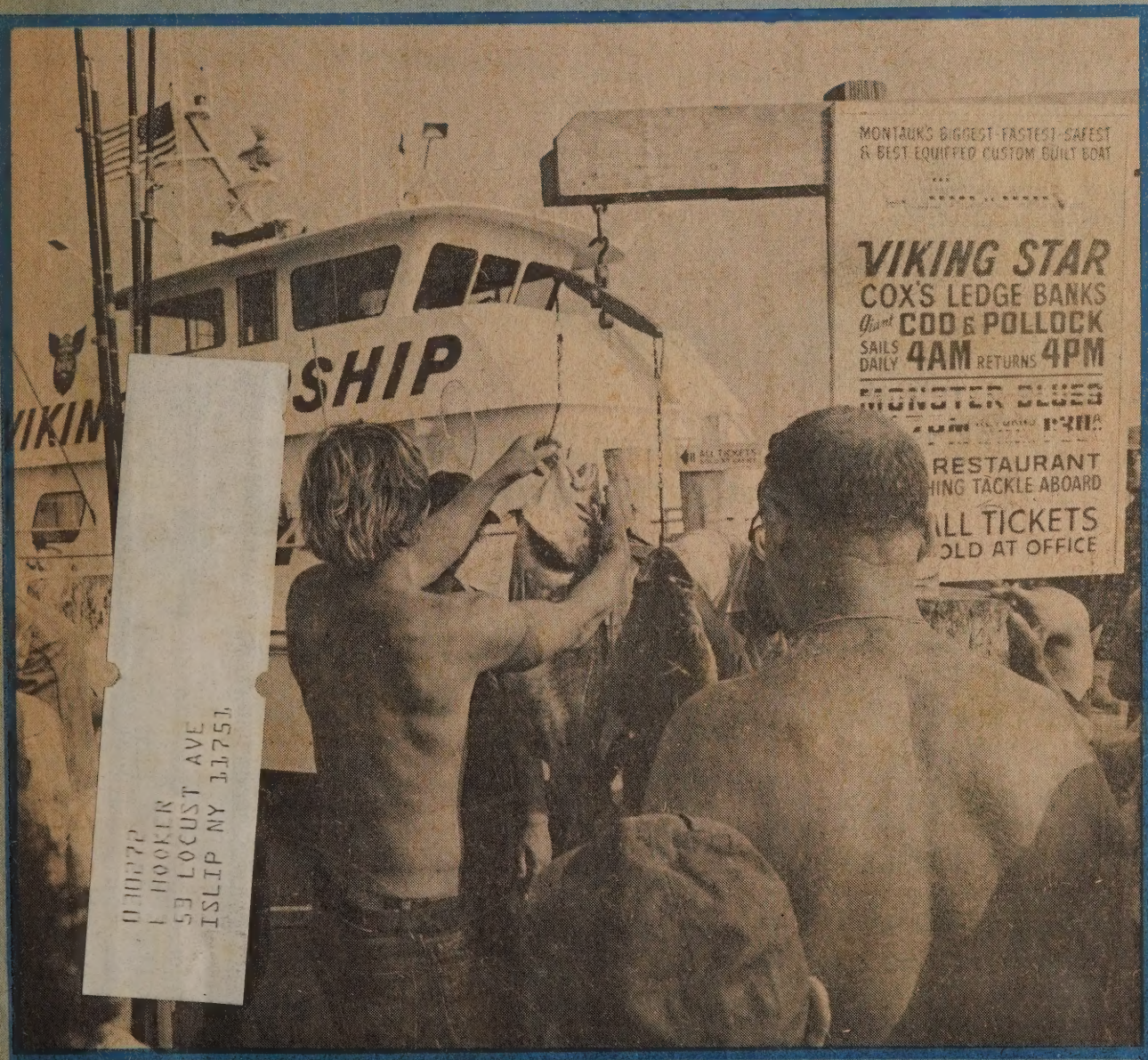
The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

SEPTEMBER, 1st, 1977, ISSUE No. 33



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 12, No. 33 — SEPTEMBER 1st, 1977

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Doormat FLUKE

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The mate weighs the poolfish for the maiden voyage of the new *VIKING STARSHIP.* Captain Paul Forsberg's latest addition to the Viking Fishing Fleet at Montauk made its maiden voyage on Saurday. See the story on page 14 on this remarkable new boat.

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The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN is published weekly, except for two weeks in December, by the L.I.F. Publishing Corporation, L.I.F. Building, Bridge St., P.O. Box 1994, Sag Harbor, New York 11963. Telephone (516) 725-4200. Second Class Postage is paid at Sag Harbor, N.Y. $.35 cents per copy, back issues $.50 per copy. *Subscriptions:* 1 Year, 50 Issues – $9.00; 2 Years, 100 Issues $17.00; 3 Years, 150 Issues – $25.00. Photographs and written contributions are welcomed. Unsolicited contributions must be accompanied by a written request and a self-addressed stamped envelope. All consideration will be given these requests, however no responsibility on our part is assumed. Notice of change of address must include both the old and the new addresses. Please allow two weeks for the address change to be made.

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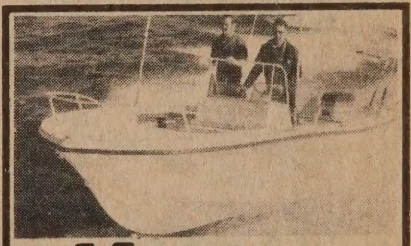

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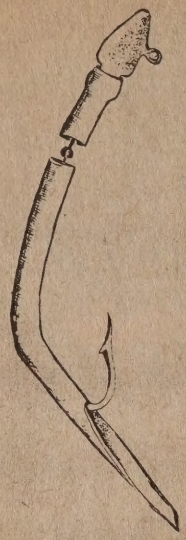

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EDITORIAL

WE NEED A BETTER TEST FOR WATER QUALITY

Many things have happened this summer to mirror the events of last year. Specifically, we're thinking about saltwater pollution problems—not the hurricane. Sludge has washed up on the beaches at several locations; the furor over safe and unsafe clamming beds continues in Great South Bay; the layer of oxygen depleted offshore water is there again, and we've gotten the usual array of phone calls and letters from our readers questioning the safety of eating fish that they have caught because of severe and unpleasant odors.

We're delighted that our readers have taken the time to share their experiences with us; but unfortunately we sometimes cannot give a conclusive or reassuring answer. What is polluted water? How do we know when it's polluted? It might seem that these are very easy questions to answer. However, this is not the case! Sure, it is easy and safe to proclaim a certain portion of the sea as polluted if human wastes are readily visible, or if nearby factories discolor the water with chemical effluents. But, what if the pollutants in question are more subtle?

PCBs and other toxic chemicals, for example, offer no visible signs of affliction. In fact, most toxic pollutants were not known as pollution problems until somebody went looking for them with a raft of chemical analyzers and scientific glassware. Undoubtedly, the future will make it possible for scientific teams to monitor water for the presence of these chemicals, and they'll be able to do so quickly and at a reasonable cost. Why are we so certain that this will happen? Simply because chemical methods of identification of chemical substances are relatively simple to determine. It remains only for research to spend the time and money to work out the procedures.

But what of organic pollution? Sewage! At the present time scientists use a method of water quality analysis based upon the number of coliform bacteria present in a given volume of water. The Department of Health and Departments of Environmental Conservation use this data to make determinations relative to the public safety. The intestinal bacteria have been thought for some years to be the best way to determine sewage contamination. Beaches may be closed to swimming and shellfishing may be prohibited if it can be demonstrated that the level of these bacteria are high.

However, there are several flaws in the method. First, coliform bacterial counts tell you very little about the presence or lack of hepatitis virus, and it is this disease which is the real concern of most public health experts. Second, it is possible that a field worker could sample in a location where, for any one of a variety of reasons, some amounts of animal feces were introduced shortly before the sample was taken. Third, methodologies are not always equally precise. Accuracy depends upon many factors, not the least of which is the caliber of the investigators, the number of samples, and how these samples were handled. In short, the validity of the coliform test is suspect.

Many scientists and laymen have challenged the use of this traditional approach, and the voices are getting louder and more numerous all of the time. Most recently, Long Island clammers have demanded that the DEC demonstrate reliably why they should be prohibited from harvesting clams in areas that are presently closed to clamming in Great South Bay.

It is clear to us that the entire situation needs a long, hard look. Are we indeed making pollution determinations reasonably well? Beyond the shellfish situation which takes up most of the space in the newspapers, we wonder about similar pollution standards as they might apply to fishing. Last year, the beaches were closed when sludge appeared on the beaches. Perhaps the beaches were unsafe for swimming, but does that also mean that the beaches were unsafe for those who wished to stand on the sand and toss a lure or bait? During this temporary closure, boat fishermen were not prohibited from fishing in the area—even if they worked the waters only a few feet offshore the tide line.

We are not advocating that the boat fishermen should have been prevented from fishing in the area: however, we are trying to show that many inconsistencies exist in present methods of analysis and in the implementation of public health standards. We do not want to see more closures—we want to see more open fishing access. At the same time, we would not like to see fishermen trying to catch fish in water that represented a clear potential danger to their health.

Does the presence of sludge represent such a clear public health danger? Do Con Ed's and Lilco's power plant effluents fit this bill? How about gasoline-charged harbor sea water?

The problem is that present methods of detection, which lead to present methods of decision-making in the public sector, are inconsistent and inadequate. We urge public authorities to make every effort to develop new and more sophisticated methods of pollution determination in the interest of public health!

Contests & Tournaments

BABYLON TUNA CLUB GR. SOUTH BAY TOURNEY

On Sunday, September 11, 1977, the Babylon Tuna Club will hold the fifth annual **"Great South Bay Tournament."** This is a fishing contest, an inshore contest, covering the waters of the Great South Bay. It is unique in that the small boat fisherman can compete with the large boat fisherman. Prizes and trophies will be awarded for club and individual entries: the species are bluefish, blackfish, striped bass, weakfish, fluke and flounder. Entry fee is $3 per angler. Club entry is $35 for a three-boat team. Clubs may enter more than one team.

Free charts are to be given out and boat berths and boat ramps are available nearby. For information or applications, contact: John Geantasio, 6 Field Daisy Lane, E. Northport, New York 11731, or call: 266-2515.

GREAT GUN ANGLERS' SHARK TOURNAMENT

Saturday, September 10th is the date for the Great Gun Anglers' First Annual Shark Tournament. The competition will be held out of Moriches Inlet, and the Club is guaranteeing $2000 in prize money.

The Tournament will begin at 6:00 a.m., at the sea buoy outside the inlet and all fish must be brought back to the Union Avenue dock in Center Moriches for weigh-in before 5:00 p.m. All boats with a minimum length of twenty feet may take part, and each vessel must be equipped with a working CB radio. International Game Fishing Association rules will apply for all fish considered for the money prizes.

First prize for the largest shark is $1,250; $500 for the second biggest fish, and third place will take $250. The entry fee is $50 per boat, and each crew is responsible for their own bait, chum and fuel.

Entry forms and competition rules may be obtained at the East Moriches Bait and Tackle Shop on Montauk Highway in East Moriches. Entries can also be mailed to: The Great Gun Anglers, Post Office Box 39, East Moriches, N.Y. 11940. All entries must be postmarked before September 1st, although late entries will be accepted at the Captains' meeting at 8:00 p.m., at the Shoreline Marina at the foot of the Union Avenue Dock, the night before the competition. For further information, call 878-4720. Boat slips can be obtained in the Moriches area can be obtained by contacting Ken Montgomery at 281-6523.

New Products

APPLIED OCEANOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY CORP. SETS UP NEW EXPERIMENTAL TANK.

Applied Oceanographic Tech. Corp., a local oceanographic research and fishing tackle manufacturer has added a new test tank, used for testing the sensitivity of various fish to basic "Olfactants" (odors) to its existing group which is distributed throughout the country. This latest system, according to Robert Husson, V.P. Research, was developed for testing bottom feeders such as flounder and fluke. "Since they are 'benthic' fish (i.e., do not continuously swim) and are not of a schooling species, we are able to use a relatively small square type of tank. Fish such as blues and stripers require much larger and circular tanks to allow them to continuously swim and school in order to accurately determine which odors attract the fish and in what concentrations."

AOTC manufactures a line of fishing lures with the brand name of "Chumin Lures". These lures, made of soft plastic come in a variety of shapes including squid, shrimp and grub. Pellets made of a combination of natural bait and pure olfactants are provided with each lure. These pellets are placed inside of the lure prior to fishing and slowly dissolve in the water. A highly concentrated odor is given off from the lure which attracts fish from distances farther away than the fish is able to visually see, thus, the name, "Chumin Lures".

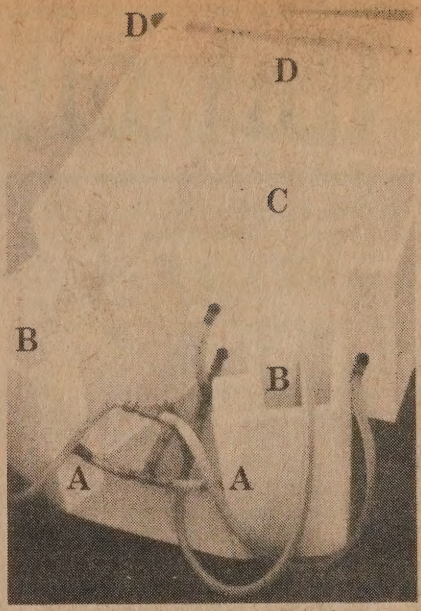
According to Mr. Husson, the special olfactants are comprised mostly of basic proteins. To date, approximately 20 olfactants have been found, which attract fish in ppm (parts per million) concentrations. This means, that when 1 atom of olfactant is dispersed in one million atoms of water, the fish is able to detect the odor.

To date, AOTC has tested a variety of fish, including stripers, weakfish, salmon, cod and flounder in various size and shape experimental tanks. The new tank being installed on the South Shore is pictured below. The tank is used, by pumping water into the bottom of two legs at point (A). The water flows through the screen cages (B) and down the legs into the main living area (C) and then exits out of the manifold (D).

After adding fish to the tank and allowing a period of time (1-2 weeks) for them to acclimate to their new surroundings, the tests will begin. Initially, various types of natural bait will be placed into either of the two screen cages. The water entering the tank passes over the bait and carries the aroma into the main part of the tank.

If the fish are attracted to the odor, they will enter the leg in search of the food.

After determining which natural baits attract the fish specie being tested, paper and gas chromotography experiments are run to determine the types and concentrations of the various basic protein materials that make up the natural bait. These materials are then synthesized or extracted and tested individually at various concentrations to determine which specific olfactant attracts the fish and in what concentration. According to Mr. Husson, most fish detect only a few percent of the various chemicals that make up the natural bait. Thus, by identifying and concentrating these odors, one can attract more fish with olfactants than with natural bait.



Most test tanks currently being used are for salt water species, but AOTC plans to start testing fresh water fish in the near future.

CLUB NEWS

GATEWAY STRIPER CLUB

The **Gateway Striper Club** has just elected their first slate of officers. They are: Ed Wolfe - President; Dave Williams - Vice President; Stan Hyman - Treasurer, and John Ohle - Secretary. Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month. Membership books are still open and potential members are welcome. For more info, contact Ed Wolfe at 327-8715.

PATCHOGUE FISHING CLUB FLUKE RESULTS

The Patchogue Fishing Club had a Fluke Tournament in Moriches Bay, Sunday, August 14, 1977. About 20 members turned out for the day. Most fish were caught in the Inlet at the top of the incoming tide.

The winners were: Bob Cromeyn - 4 lbs.; Ray Terman - 2 lbs. 14 oz.; Joel Runkel - 2 lbs. 10 oz., and Barbara Runkel - 2 lbs. 7 oz.

NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Recent columns have related the difficulties we've encountered in dealing with the Japanese longliners due to the tuna exemption in the 200 Mile Limit law. However, the problems the Fishery Councils have been trying to resolve are related to our area of jurisdiction—all species other than tuna. Yet, one of the most serious problems created by the Japanese longliners concerns tuna, and, unless the law is changed, there probably isn't much we can do about it.

Traditionally, the Japanese have been fishing about 20 longliners off our Atlantic and Gulf Coasts from time to time, throughout the year. We were aware that they caught a few bluefin tuna, but took their word that they were interested only in yellowfin and big-eye tuna. Yet this winter, the Japanese fleet in the Gulf of Mexico, suddenly expanded to as many as 70 vessels. Furthermore, we heard they were catching giant tuna in large quantities—perhaps as many as 5000. The National Marine Fisheries Service conducted a couple of courtesy boardings and observed the longliners in action, as well as checking their catches. On the basis of these actual boardings and the number of vessels spotted from February through June, NMFS has changed the probable number of large and giant bluefin tuna taken by the Japanese longline fleet upwards to 18,000! Indeed, those figures are based on the least successful of the two ships.

To put all this in perspective, consider the conservation regulations imposed on American fishermen. For the last two years, American rod and reel, harpoon, and handline fishermen have been limited to 2000 giants per season. An additional poundage allocation to the purse seine fleet results in the capture of about 600 more giants. The reason American fishermen are so restricted is the need for protecting this spawning stock until good year classes of smaller tuna become established and sexually mature. Each of the last two years, American fishermen have had their seasons cut short in mid-September, just as the price for these fish was hitting seasonal highs. The Japanese prefer "fat" tuna and pay the best price for fish taken in the fall, which have been feeding heavily all summer and added on a great deal of oily weight. At this time, the buyers often pay from $1 to $1.50 a pound dressed. Since the giants average 700-900 pounds in the fall, there's quite a bit of money to be made. In Japan, these tuna are so valuable that the buyers can afford to air ship them directly to market.

The giant tuna taken by the longliners earlier this year were in pre-spawning—a particularly serious undoing of our conservation efforts. If our estimates are anywhere near correct, the Japanese took in a few months, a catch equivalent to what our own citizens will be allowed to take over the next seven years—and they did it primarily in our own waters! Worst of all, they may have seriously endangered the international program for trying to restore healthy bluefin populations.

The U. S. quotas are set in accordance with the regulations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). It took years of prodding by Frank Mather and other American scientists before ICCAT would even respond to the bluefin tuna emergency. When they did, it was simply to call for member countries not to increase their catches beyond what they had been catching. Congress provided the authorization for NMFS to take the appropriate actions to carry out that requirement, and the result has been the limitations on sizes and catches of both school and giant tuna we've lived with the past few seasons. Based on the best scientific evidence available, I've actively supported these regulations. However, in view of the tuna exemption in the law, and the seeming inability of ICCAT to effectively deal with this question, a re-examination of that position is in order. After all, if we can't prevent the Japanese from slaughtering giant tuna in the Gulf before they've spawned, how can we possibly justify denying our fishermen the economic benefits of catching as many valuable tuna as they can?

The Japanese are members of ICCAT and claim to be observing its regulations. At last month's State Department meetings with the Japanese, the question of the large catch of pre-spawning giant tuna was taken up—even though we have no control over it. Strangely enough, the Japanese (who are very strong on fishery statistics) had no idea how many tuna had been taken. Indeed, they claimed their fleet was about the same as in previous years, and had vessel counts that were significantly different from ours. However, our figures were based on actual Coast Guard sightings and are almost surely accurate. The Japanese claim to be observing an overall quota for their fleet of 5200 metric tons of bluefin. In previous years, a great deal of that catch has come out of the Mediterranean Sea, but they've cut their fisheries back there due to low stocks and 200 Mile Limit problems. Under ICCAT regulations, they can still destroy our stocks of bluefin without exceeding their overall quota. Even then, if our estimate of 18,000 giants is fairly accurate (the observed fish averaged 500-600 pounds, dressed), they've already reached their total yearly quota. Yet, the Japanese claim their catch so far is less than last year's!

All the above serves to illustrate the problems involved in international regulation of any species. The value assigned to various species by different governments vary greatly and it's difficult to create any meaningful conservation program without the full cooperation of all involved. Like ICNAF, ICCAT is a toothless tiger, rarely doing anything constructive—and then powerless to enforce its actions. Under the circumstances, it's the best we've got—but a sorry excuse for the control we could exercise if the tuna exemption were eliminated from the law. It's quite true that migratory species could be best managed on an international basis, if every country were equally interested in conservation. That not being the case, it's about time we showed the same degree of common sense involved in establishing the 200 Mile Limit and eliminated the tuna exemption from our law. Write to your Senators and Congressmen about this vital issue before the bluefin becomes as rare on our coast as he's been along the coast of California for decades. At that point, the issue will become strictly academic!

A light point in the State Department meetings with the Japanese provided a valuable insight into the value of ICCAT. The Japanese were constantly urging us to bring the problem of billfish taken on longlines to ICCAT, rather than dealing with it unilaterally in the PMP. ICCAT has jurisdiction over billfish, as well as tuna, but has never done a thing about them, as they aren't of great commercial interest. After hearing the Japanese request, one of our Government scientists observed "ICCAT wouldn't do anything about blue marlin unless we could prove there were only two left—and they were both males!" Unfortunately, almost the same thing applies to bluefin tuna.

****

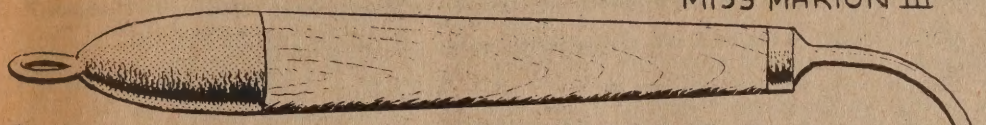
The Secretary of Commerce has announced the new appointments to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Unfortunately, Doc Muller wasn't selected, though we really didn't expect his appointment at this time since there were no vacancies in New York. However, we can take heart in the selections that were made. The one obligatory seat available was in Delaware. There, John Burger, a sportsman, declined renomination. John will be replaced by Barbara Porter, a marina owner and well-known fisherwoman. Barbara will join Nancy Goell as the second woman on our Council. In Maryland, Dr. Gene Cronin wasn't renominated by the Governor. Dr. Cronin, one of the country's eminent marine biologists, was chairman of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee. This Committee is required by law and consists of 12 leading scientists

(Continued on page 23.)

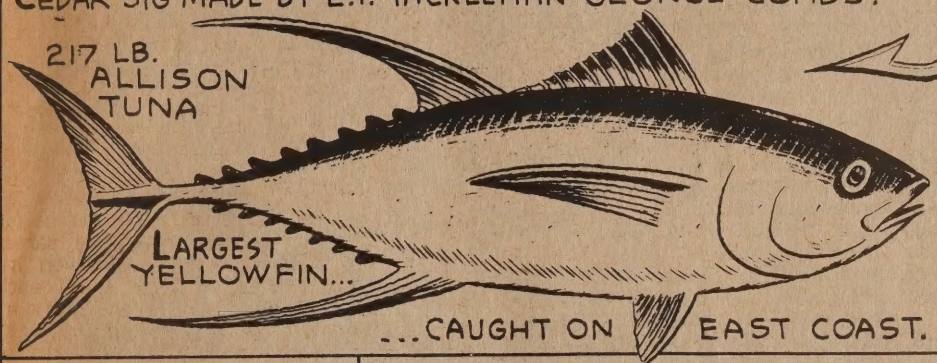
FISHING NEWSBITS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

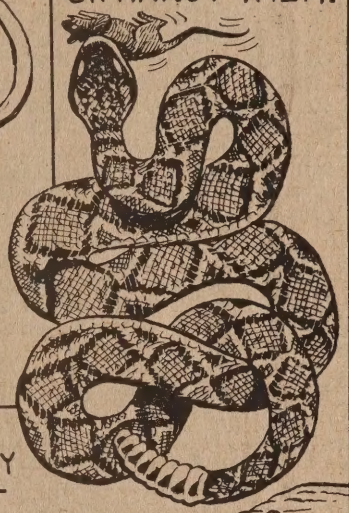
CEDAR JIG CATCHES RECORD ALLISON TUNA ON 50 LB. TEST LINE FOR JOE CARIONE OF THE L.I. BABYLON TUNA CLUB ABOARD CAPT. DICK SVOBODA'S BOAT MISS MARION III



CEDAR JIG MADE BY L.I. TACKLEMAN GEORGE COMBS.

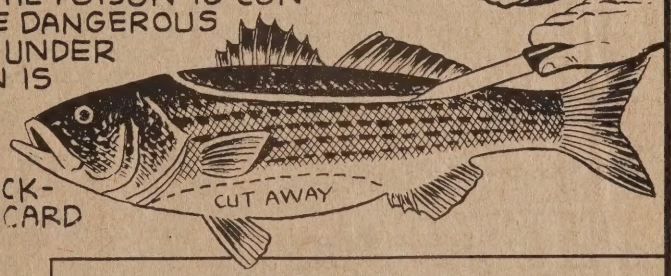


RATTLESNAKES ARE ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST IN NEW JERSEY AND IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO KILL OR ANNOY THEM.



CARP CENTENNIAL IT WAS IN 1877 THAT THE CARP WAS INTRODUCED IN THE U.S.A... POPULAR AS A FOOD FISH IN EUROPE, IT CAME FROM CHINA BY WAY OF GERMANY. IN THE PAST 100 YEARS IT HAS BECOME THE MOST WIDESPREAD AND UNWELCOME OF FRESHWATER FISH.

THE PCB THREAT IN FISH CAN BE REDUCED BY CUTTING AWAY THE FATTY PARTS WHERE THE POISON IS CONCENTRATED. THE DANGEROUS FAT AND FLESH UNDER THE DORSAL FIN IS ALONG TOP OF BACKBONE. REMOVE ENTIRE WEDGE ALONG BACKBONE. ALSO DISCARD BELLY FLAP.



FISHING FROM THE BACK OF A GIRAFFE IS FORBIDDEN IN THE STATE OF IDAHO... IT IS ALSO AGAINST THE LAW TO HITCH A CROCODILE TO A FIRE HYDRANT IN MICHIGAN!

MEDICAL REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE JAPANESE HAVE MORE STOMACH CANCER THAN ANY OTHER RACE BECAUSE OF THEIR FONDNESS FOR RAW FISH SUCH AS TUNA AND PUFFERS.

FISH TALK

with Dr. William A. Muller

WHITE MARLIN

Tetrapturus albidus

THE WHITE MARLIN IS A POPULAR OFFSHORE SPECIES in this area, although it is not common for dozens of fish to be taken during a single day by one boat. Offshore fishing is becoming increasingly popular, even though the vast legions of saltwater anglers in our area do not participate in this sport. Still, modern long-range, small Fiberglas boats and sophisticated electronics have brought the offshore adventure closer to more people than ever before. For many fishermen, this is the ultimate trip and these anglers have brought with them their inshore light tackle attitudes. Today, many offshore species are taken on fly rods, and if the fishermen are not committed to this approach, spinning rods may serve as an excellent substitute.

OF ALL THE BILLFISH in the family Istophoridae, the white marlin is the only species that comes close enough to shore in sufficient numbers in our area to make for a rewarding sportfishery. Speed, outstanding long-lasting strength, and large size, are the features that attract fishermen to the offshore grounds in search of billfish. Although all of the billfish have high elaborate dorsal fins, most can fold these close against their bodies into a groove when swimming at high speeds. The large surface area of the fin thus virtually disappears, and the effect is to reduce the drag resistance of the water on the body of the fish.

THE WHITE MARLIN IS AN EFFICIENT PREDATOR. Like the other billfish, white marlin use their speed, excellent eyesight, and endurance to successfully chase down a variety of speedy baits in the open sea. Mackerel, herring, squid, and other small fish are the basic elements of their diet, although they will dine happily on eels and other slow-moving creatures.

WHITE MARLIN ARE LONERS! Most open ocean, or pelagic fishes are solitary hunters, although they will group up to feed on some baits that may be scholled, or migrating through an area.

THERE IS VERY LITTLE VARIATION IN COLOR AMONG THE PELAGIC FISHES. Since the ocean is blue and water clarity is great, the basic color plan for the marlins is very similar. They are blue on the dorsal surface, which grades to white and silver on the sides and ventral surface. Fin and body markings differ slightly. The dorsal fin of the white marlin is rounded, rather than pointed at the tip, and the sides of the body lack black marks.

WHITE MARLIN ARE THE PEE-WEES OF THE MARLIN TRIBE! Whereas the black marlin—the biggest of the marlin—may reach weights of over two thousand pounds, the white marlin averages about fifty or sixty pounds. Each year, a number of fish in the seventy and eighty pound class are taken on rod and reel, and an occasional one hundred pound fish is unloaded as well. The rod-and reel all-tackle record for the species is about one hundred and sixty pounds, but these specimens are few and far between.

WHITE MARLIN ARE BASICALLY WARM WATER FISH. Like the other billfish, the white marlin prefers tropical waters, and are most abundant in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico; however, the fish follow a migration route that takes them up the East Coast of the United States. Apparently—and our knowledge of billfish is not terribly complete—the white marlin follows the Gulf Stream northward during the summer. They seek out the mackerel and squid which are also migrating with the seasons. Along the Coast of the southern United States, white marlin may be very abundant during the late spring and they may be found quite close to shore. Large herds of the marlin may be encountered as far north as Ocean City, Maryland, where an extensive directed sportfishery has become well-established. Many charter boats are available to fish for the whites in that area. In fact, if you travel south you'll encounter many large signs promoting the marlin fishing as a tourist attraction.

WHITE MARLIN GROW VERY FAST. We have discussed before how the nature of the open ocean requires that these species be both prolific and rapid growers. There are few places to hide, and until a fish becomes large enough to avoid being eaten, life is very perilous. Billfish are not as prolific as mackerels, but an average-sized female can lay several million eggs. Within three or four years, the fish are mature. This means that the white marlin does a lot of eating to go with a lot of swimming.

FINDING FOOD MAY BE TOUGH. The offshore ocean is not nearly as productive as are the inshore grounds. Schools of forage fish may be spread out and hundreds of miles may separate them; thus, any predator has to be highly efficient. One of the keys to both the success of the billfish and the billfish fisherman, is the response of the game fish to noise. White marlin may cruise deep and may be located as far down as one hundred feet, or more. However, sound travels fast and over great distances in water; thus the swimming and/or feeding of a school of small fish creates a tremendous disturbance that is easily detected by the marlin. They will rise to the surface quickly and once within range, they will use their excellent sense of smell and their eyesight to find the food. For this reason, pelagic game fish are suckers for the noise of a fast trolling boat. They are curious—they have to be in order to find and capture enough food to feed their appetites.

MARLIN CAN BE FOOLED. The need for food on a continuous and steady basis to support a rapid growth rate necessitates that the marlin not be too choosy about how its dinner plate is set. On the inshore grounds, a predator may be very picky, selecting only specific foods. The fish may go off their feed for considerable amounts of time. However, marlin cannot afford this luxury. They may sense that a lure or rigged bait flopping behind a fast-moving boat is not quite right, but the drive to eat overcomes these objections. In fact, if the bait or lure is too far behind the boat, the marlin may not be enticed to feed at all. Thus, the commotion of the wake serves two purposes. First, it lures the fish to the surface, and second, creates enough confusion to convince an eagle eye marlin that the flopping and skipping are real.

THE FISHERMAN NEEDS SPECIFIC SKILLS. The fact that the white marlin may be fooled rather easily does not imply that exacting and precise angling skill is not required to catch them. The successful fisherman must have excellent boat handling skills, a solid knowledge of how to rig baits, be totally familiar with his or her tackle, and understand how the marlin strikes a bait. Most offshore fishermen search the surface of the water in an area known to hold the billfish. They are looking for the dorsal fins or tops of the tails, which often are above the water when the fish are feeding. The captain must approach the fish in such a way as not to alarm them, and he or she tries to deliver the baits right in front of their bills.

TEASERS ARE USED. Most trollers use a variety of large teasers that are trolled close to the boat. These hookless lures create a lot of disturbance in the water, luring the billfish for a closer look. When the marlin are in the wake, the fishermen may reel in the teasers so that the marlin can focus their attention on the rigged baits or lures. When the marlin strikes, it will lift its bill above the water and smash its prey. It may do this several times before eating the bait. When the fish finally take the bait, the fishermen free-spools line to the fish in order to give them time to swallow the bait. The fish must then be struck hard several times in order to drive the hook into tough jaw muscle, bone, and connective tissue.

AERIAL ARTISTS! White marlin usually put on quite a show and they may jump many times before coming to the boat. One of the dangers during an acrobatic display is that the line may become tangled in the bill, which usually means that the line will be cut and the fish lot. If a marlin is not hooked after the drop-back, the angler should reel in quickly to get the bait back on the surface of the water, because these

(Continued on page 41.)

Surf Side

with David Curti

BAITFISHING AT LIDO BEACH

★PART ONE★

Access to Lido Beach is fairly easy. Drive to Pacific Avenue in Lido, park your car on the street next to the Azores Hotel, and walk onto the beach. The first thing you will see is a long, flat, easily-walked jetty crowded with fishermen. Forget it, and keep walking east! There are four more jetties that you will be concerned with.

The first jetty is at the end of the Hotel's sea wall, and is called the Hotel Jetty. Here, the shoreline cuts in towards the Hotel. During full moon tides, the water at the sea wall is often ankle-deep and more. (My wife, who often accompanies me when I am baitfishing, got a slight bath here last spring after miscalculating a wave.) The beach slopes off sharply on both sides of the jetty, and deep water lies directly in front of the jetty. So do many school bass.

The second jetty, known as the Bath House Jetty, is easily walked—unlike its neighbors. Creepers are only necessary at the half-tides, when it is advisable to fish the tip of the jetty. This is one of my favorite jetties for weakfish. If they are around, they are here.

The third jetty is the Cabana Club Jetty—another weakfish haunt. It is low and flat, and a good part of it is awash at high tide. Thus, creepers are a must.

I have never heard the last jetty referred to by any name other than the Last Jetty. It marks the boundary between the Lido and Town of Hempstead beaches. If there are any blues in the area, this is where you are likely to find them. (For the most part, they are conspicuously absent from the other jetties.) From here to Point Lookout, it is all open beach.

These four jetties are short, and are best fished at high tide, but do not let their size fool you. The old adage, "good things come in small packages" holds true here. As was previously mentioned, all but the Bath House Jetty are awash at high tide; thus, with deep water literally at your feet, your casts do not have to be of tournament distance. In fact, a short lob next to the jetty, often works better.

The tidal flow is east to west during ebb tides, and west to east during the flood. This tidal flow creates many back eddies beside the jetties at certain tidal stages. The deeper water seems to be located on the east side of the jetties. Baitfish are trapped in these "pockets," and the predators come in after them at high tide.

One day last fall, I watched a school of small bass feeding on mullet. They simply hugged the rocks below my feet. At regular intervals, the mullet would be pushed towards them in the circular motion of the eddy. A bass would simply make a quick dash from her rocky hiding place, and nature had one less baitfish!

Thus far, I have been talking about high tide fishing, and you may have arrived at low water. Don't leave! Fish the beaches, since tidal rips form in front of all four jetties at half-tide, and last almost to dead low. The most productive rips are at the Bath House and Last jetties.

At low tide, the outer bar is within casting range for the experienced angler. At most points, it is only sixty-five to seventy-five yards offshore. Breaks in the outer bar occur with regularity along Lido. Last year a major break occurred right at the point where the outer bar swings in close to the beach, between the Bath House and Cabana Club jetties. From halfway through the ebb, to midway through the flood, it was within an easy cast from the beach. This break produced some of the largest fish caught at Lido—especially on eels and bunker chunks at night during late summer and fall.

Numerous holes also dot the entire Lido area. Last year's configuration consisted of two breaks in the outer bar, and no less than six other holes, and I had trouble deciding which ones to choose from. Every year the configuration of the beaches changes, due to offshore dredging and winter storms. Every spring, I make it a point to check-out the beaches I fish. These trips are more or less scouting expeditions.

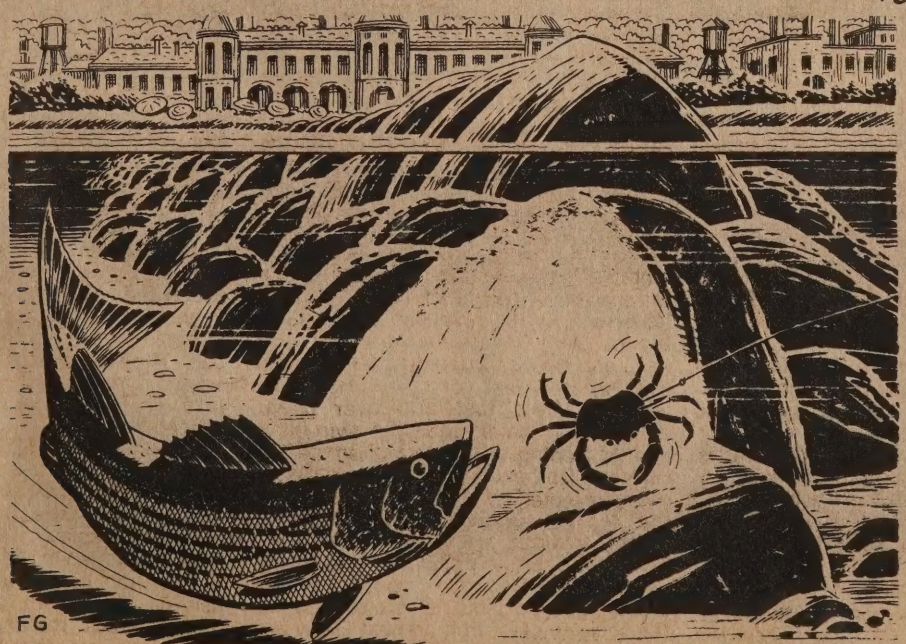
I wait for a day when the water is calm and clear. At low water, wearing my polarized sunglasses, I climb onto each jetty so that I can look down on the water and watch the wave action. If the waves are breaking right on shore, then I know that the deep water is within close casting range. A break in the line of breakers is a dead give-away for either a break in the outer bar, or a deep hole. A break in the outer bar allows big bass to enter the trough easily. With the help of sunglasses, you can also discern a slight color difference. The water may appear darker or greener than the surrounding water.

Where the outer bar turns in close to the beach, as has been the case at the Bath House Jetty for the last few seasons, you will also find a good spot. Eddies and turbulence occur with regularity at these points. Here again, the waves will break closer to shore, or perhaps will approach the beach at a different angle from the other waves.

The beaches themselves have a rather fast slope to them, especially on the east side of the jetties. For example, the high water line at the Bath House Jetty is a bank of sand, which you must literally jump off in order to wade into the water.

The moving water is lifted over the outer bar, losing some of its force. It breaks again on the inner bar, and then rushes up the beach to the top of the high water line. This water then

(Continued on page 11.)



INSHORE FISHING

with Ron Onorato

CLAM CHUMMING

It wasn't too many years ago, when schools of small bass plied the bays and beaches of Long Island waters, that the use of clam chum was so prevalent. Indeed, this was perhaps the most effective way of catching fish that would otherwise be reluctant to take a plug or other lure. Clam chumming along the Rockaway beaches was so effective in the late 60's, that even the party boats from Sheepshead Bay would be seen bailing small bass while anchored along the beach. Good catching persisted into the early 70's; then came the drought of small bass, and clam chumming came virtually to a grinding halt. Today, clam chumming is still done by some of the better bass fishermen, with most of the action being centered around some of the South Shore bridges and bay areas, with less focus on the beaches, which for the past few years have seemed barren of fish. Another noteworthy aspect of today's clam chumming results concerns the size of the fish taken. Whereas in the past, most of the fish taken consisted of school fish, recent catches include much larger fish on an average, with fish in the thirty pound range being landed more than just occasionally.

Before we move on into the fishing and the techniques used in clam chumming, let's take a look at the chum itself. For the most part, today's clam chum consists pretty much of the belly section of the clam. Whoever discovered that bass like the soft belly of the average skimmer clam, really uncorked a gold mine. As the skimmer clam was processed for other purposes—such as clam chowder and other culinary delights—the belly was cut out and usually discarded, with the tongue of the clam being the most desirable part. Since all clam processing is now done by machine, obtaining the soft bellies has become quite an easy chore. After the clams are processed, the bellies are put into five gallon tins and frozen to be used at a later date. At one time, the bait dealers sold diced clams an an alternative to the bellies. The diced clams were nothing other than the hard portion of the clam run through a cutting machine, and then placed in the same five gallon tins. Naturally, the diced clams were much more expensive than the bellies, for they used up the most desirable portion of the clam; however, the cost seemed worth the results. Many of the local sharpshooters agreed that the diced clams worked much better along the beach than the clam bellies. They felt that the bass would fill itself up pretty quickly with the bellies, and often stay back in the slick. However, since the diced clams were really quite small, it would be very hard for the bass to fill up on just the tiny particles of meat; hence they would come way up into the chum slick to feed. Regular clam bellies would also be used as bait when they were fishing with the diced clams.

The concept behind clam chumming—and for that matter any sort of chumming—is to concentrate scattered fish near the boat so that they will be in a position to take a baited hook. Thus, the very first thing to do is to place the boat in an area you reasonably believe holds fish. Where this may be will vary according to the area in which you're fishing. For a long time, the beaches along the Rockaway waterfront was the scene of some of the hottest bass chumming: it seemed that you could anchor your boat anywhere from Beach 98th St., right on down to Riis Park and start catching fish. Now it seems that the bass chumming is pretty much centered around the South Shore bridge areas such as the Meadowbrook and Wantagh spans, as well as the Atlantic Beach Bridge.

Now we come to the crucial part of this entire operation: the doling out of the bellies into the current in such a fashion that the fish will be enticed, but not fed, by the stream of juicy morsels coming in their direction. First, look for an area that has some sort of tidal movement—the less tidal movement, the less the range of the chum. When you're fishing along the beaches, or in some quiet back bay, the tidal movement isn't going to be too great, so it will take a while before any results may show up. By the time you're ready to fish, make sure that the frozen bellies are now unfrozen and completely thawed out. Quietly anchor the boat, and keep the above-deck noise to an absolute minimum as the water is very shallow and any clanging away on the boat will not help matters. When you're fishing in this type of area, you're going to be doling out the bellies by hand. At first you're going to take a handful of the bellies and squeeze them over the side of the boat. From that point on, you're going to just be dripping out a single belly at a time, every thirty seconds or so. This is kept up for an hour or so, and unless the fish show, you're going to make a move and repeat the whole show again.

While we are on this type of fishing, let's take a quick look at the tackle requirements which must be fulfilled before you can achieve success. Without exception, use conventional gear; avoid spinning tackle at all costs. The revolving spool reel gives you so much better line control that it doesn't even pay to think about spinning gear. You can use a light conventional reel, in the fifteen to twenty pound range—preferably the reel should be a Penn Squidder with 15 pound mono. The type of rod you'll match with this outfit can be varied, but you don't want to go to something too stout. The terminal tackle isn't that much more sophisticated than any other type of fishing, and perhaps even less so. Quite simply, all you really need is a 1/0 or 2/0 Eagle Claw and a three-foot length of 20 pound mono, with a small black barrel swivel. The leader is connected to the hook and the barrel swivel and the terminal end of the mono line is attached to the other end of the barrel swivel—and that's as hard as it gets.

The same clam bellies you are using for chum also double as the bait you will use. Simply take one of the bellies right from the can and thread it onto the hook several times. Once you've got the chum going pretty well into the water, you're ready to start fishing. Take your baited hook, lower it into the water, strip a few yards of line off the reel, and let the baited hook settle back into the slick. The reel is kept in free spool this entire length of time. After a couple of seconds, strip off a few more feet of line. Repeat this process until you've got fifty or sixty feet of line out and if there is no action forthcoming, bring in the hook and repeat the whole process again. If things went well, you should have gotten a hit before the hook had a chance to go too far back into the slick. Usually the hit will come within twenty-five feet of the boat. When you do get a hit, you really don't have to do anything more than engage the reel and hit the fish sharply with the rod. You really don't have to give the fish a runoff with the belly, since they seem to suck the soft bait right up without too much trouble.

As mentioned earlier, this type of clam chumming works well in areas where the tide is not very fast. When the tide is really moving along, in such areas around inlets and bridges, you have to go to a different technique in order to get the chum to the fish. If you hand doled the clam bellies in the swiftly-moving current, the chum would be 100 yards behind the boat before it got to the fish, and the fish would be right there waiting for it; this makes fishing for them very difficult.

This is where the use of the chum pot comes into play. In most cases, the bass will usually be feeding in the vicinity of the bottom. With the fast currents, the only way to get the chum to the fish is by use of the chum pot. What kind of chum pot will you need? Actually there is no one single type of chum pot used; but any one that is able to stay on the bottom and spit out the chum with regular consistency, will serve the purpose. Some local sharpshooters make up their own pots: but for the average angler, any one of the store-bought jobs will do. Of course, you'll have to use something a little larger than the flounder size pot.

You can use the same bellies right in the pot as would have been used in hand-squeezing. Actually, the best thing to use in the chum pot is a combination of bellies and ground clams. What we usually do is get a tin of bellies and mix it with half a tin of the ground clams. The resulting mixture is then frozen into half-gallon, wax milk containers. Since the average block of chum takes about forty-five minutes to run out of the pot, you have to figure six or seven blocks of chum for each tide you plan on fishing. The blocks are kept frozen by stowing them in an ice chest, heavily iced down and used as needed.

Fishing in an area with a fast moving current will differ a bit from the other type of fishing. Because you're chumming close to the bottom, the place to fish logically, therefore, is close to the bottom. You can do this in one of two ways: by using a fairly heavy clinch sinker, or by fishing with a drail to get the bait close to the bottom.

Small bass taken while clam chumming, is netted.

The most effective technique involves the use of the clinch sinker. The sinker, which will weigh from one-half to three-quarter ounces in weight, is attached onto the leader ahead of the hook. You bait the hook and fish it in a manner similar to regular chum fishing, except that you will be feeling for the bottom with the bait. The baited hook is lowered into the water and kept in free spool until the bottom is hit. The reel is then engaged when the bottom is felt, and this causes the baited hook to rise a few feet off the bottom. After a second or so, the reel is put back into free spool and the baited hook is dropped back to the bottom once again. Do this three or four times before reeling in and starting again. You really don't have to have the reel in free spool when the fish hits; the fish will usually hit the belly as it is rising off the bottom.

When the current is really ripping, and you can't get a good feel of the bottom with just the clinch sinker, you may have to go to the drail in order to get the hook on the bottom where it will do you some good. Start off with a two ounce drail, and work it from there, until you get bottom. You attach the terminal end of the mono line from the reel onto the top eye of the drail. With a three-foot leader, you then connect the hook to the bottom of the drail. The drail is lowered into the current until it hits bottom and once again, the reel is engaged and the drail will come up a bit off the bottom—but not as much as the other way. You now just keep dropping the baited hook back into the current for a hundred feet or so, and then reel in and begin the process again. You can keep the amount of weight to an absolute minimum by using the lightest pound test mono you're comfortable with. The lighter the test, the smaller the diameter—hence less water resistance. For this type of fishing, the most you should use is 15 pound test and preferably, 12 or 10 pound test.

As mentioned earlier, most of the chumming action seems to have moved away from the beaches and moved into the bays. The scene of almost all chumming these days are the South Shore spans and results—while hardly impressive—still merit some attention. School fish, which so often made up the bulk of the catch, are now totally absent, and have been replaced by teen-size and better, fish. If we ever get another good year class of bass, clam chumming may once again be relied upon as a tool of the fisherman.

SurfSide: BAITFISHING AT LIDO

(Continued from page 9.)

moves back to the sea, creating what we know as undertow. When a second wave moves in behind the first, it clashes with the receding water, churning it up. This churning causes the sand to shift, creating a dropoff, or trough.

I have found Lido to be one of the most productive areas during any stage of the tide. Its relatively easy access is also a plus. The configuration of the beach is such that the angler is not limited to "jetty jockeying."

During a three-day period last fall, I picked at a school of bass which had moved into the rip formed in front of the Bath House Jetty at low water. The action lasted for about one-and-a-half to two hours, until the rip disappeared.

Next week, I will discuss the four methods I use for presenting the baits.

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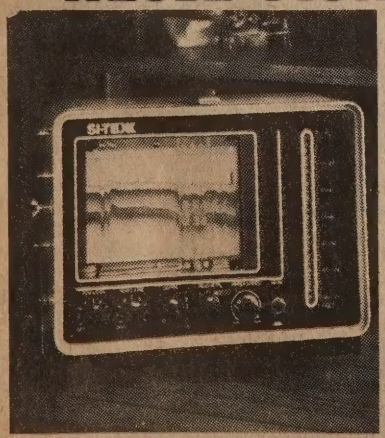

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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

A DAY ON THE CAPTAIN CLARK

The Fourth of July—our country's 201st Birthday! A day of celebration! What better way for a fishing scribe to join in the festivities than to go fishing. And I did exactly that—aboard the Capt. Clark out of Hampton Bays.

While making plans for the trip, a thought occurred to me: why not kill two birds with one stone and take photos of the action. Good idea—and I'm glad I did. I can tell you right now that not only were plenty of photos taken—there was plenty of fishing action!

Although both Capt. Clark boats sail from my Hampton Bays neighborhood, I'm ashamed to admit I've never been aboard either of them. I'd frequently toy with the idea, but somehow would never get around to actually doing it. But right now, as I sit before this typewriter, I'm kind of kicking myself as I fully realize that I've been missing out on a lot of fun and good fishing.

I've come to the conclusion, too, that any fisherman who failed to get enough action to satisfy himself on the day I fished aboard the Capt. Clark, wasn't trying very hard. The fish did everything but jump into the boat. The target was porgies, and that's what everybody got. They weren't large, they weren't small—just average-sized bay porgies, but loads of fun to catch.

Fishermen who have read my articles on party boat fishing know that I'm fussy when it comes to this type of fishing. I don't mind the weather, or even the lack of fish on those off-days we all get, but I do like to sail with a skipper who knows his stuff and tries his damndest to satisfy his patrons. Captain Clark does exactly that.

Take it from me—this skipper knows his fishing. From the few hours I spent aboard his vessel, I distinctly got the impression that here is a fishing boat captain who knows both the Peconic and Shinnecock Bays, and the local offshore grounds and wrecks like you and I know the backs of our hands. He's a skipper par excellence.

This past spring, both Capt. Clark boats moved their berthing from near the Montauk Highway Bridge to the west side of Shinnecock Canal, north of the locks, and closer to Peconic Bay, where most of their fishing is done.

As we stood in the pilot house preparing to leave, I asked Captain Clark how he liked the change. "Great," he said. "No matter how hard I tried, when the lock was closed, I still lost fifteen minutes or more at each end of the day—either going in or coming out. But now we have this new dockage and my passengers get about an extra half-hour of fishing time. Everybody's happy."

This explanation enabled me to gain an insight on this hard-working captain's point of view. I wasn't a bit surprised by his reply. Like all the good fishing skippers I've known, Captain Clark's passengers' enjoyment was uppermost in his mind. It isn't surprising to me why both Capt. Clark boats enjoy an excellent reputation for catching fish, for every good fishing skipper of my acquaintance has always had the same attitude.

We left the Canal dock at 8 AM, and in brief minutes, we were in Peconic Bay. The morning was beautiful. There were between twenty-five and thirty happy-go-lucky passengers aboard, and you can bet Kevin, the mate, was kept busy rigging-up lines for those who needed expert attention. Small buckets containing sliced skimmer and squid were conveniently placed about the boat and I noticed when the fishing started, Kevin seemed always on hand to untangle snarled lines or give a word of advice or encouragement here and there. In short, Kevin is a knowledgeable mate and one who thoroughly knows his job. You can believe this from a fishing scribe who has put in many years as a mate aboard party boats.

Our first drop was a spot near Robbins Island, less than a half-hour ride from the Canal entrance. Porgies came within minutes, but not as rapidly as expected. Captain Clark stuck it out for a half-hour or so, hoping an increase in tidal action would get the fish into a more receptive mood. When this failed to happen, the hook was pulled and we headed for one of the captain's favorite wrecks.

This time, we immediately got into fish. Everyone began to bucket porgies. The instant the bait hit bottom, there was an interested porgy willing and able to do battle. Most hook-ups were singles, but double-headers weren't uncommon. Typical good porgy action on a fine day.

Because I fish just about everyday, I thought I'd take a break and devote most of my time to picture taking, but when I saw all those porgies coming up, I could resist no longer—I grabbed a rod and went to work on the porgy population.

I soon lost count of the porgies I caught. Those I did catch were distributed to whoever was fishing closest to me at the time. Porgies are such fine eating, none were refused. I noticed, too, that most of the action was on sand and bloodworms, which experienced passengers had purchased beforehand. I, like many of the passengers, used the available skimmer bait. Those of us fishing with this bait had no difficulty getting our share of the action. Most fish averaged about a half-pound; occasionally one would be larger.

About eleven o'clock, a westerly breeze began to make itself felt. It was also about that time when the fishing showed signs of slacking off. No longer would the fish jump on the hook as before: now, you had to work for them. The skipper decided it was time to make another move.

Away we went, back to the first stop of the morning. Here, a few more fish were added to the day's catch, but not

(Continued on page 13.)

One good fisherman in the making.

The mate cleans porgy after porgy.

★★★★★★★★★★

HOW-TO SPECIAL FEATURE

★★★★★★★★★★

Bait Needles

In this corner:
ROBERT HUNT
Member of Babylon Tuna Club

This is a simple, under $1 project that is useful not only to offshore shark fishermen, but to the baymen as well. With this bait needle you can rig bunker or mackerel for shark, butterfish for blues, squid, smelts or snappers for fluke. Baits are rigged for three reasons. First, you are hiding the hook from the fish. Second, you are placing the hook in the tail section of the bait, where most fish bite. Third, you can drift or troll a dead bait such as snappers or squid in a lifelike manner.

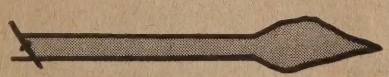
I. TOOLS AND MATERIALS

3/16" Brazing Rod - 16" (from Sears, Hardware store, etc.)
File or grinder
Pliers
Vise or vise grips
Propane torch or stove
Hammer
Hacksaw

II. STEPS

1. Cut a 16" piece of 3/16" diam. brazing rod.
2. File ends to remove burrs
3. Place rod in vise and bend eye with pliers (heating will make this step easier)
4. Heat other end of rod over torch
5. Hammer last inch of rod to a 1/16" thickness, 1/4" wide

6. Grind or file to a spear point



7. Sharpen front edges

8. Place needle in vise and with a hacksaw, cut the slot for the leader

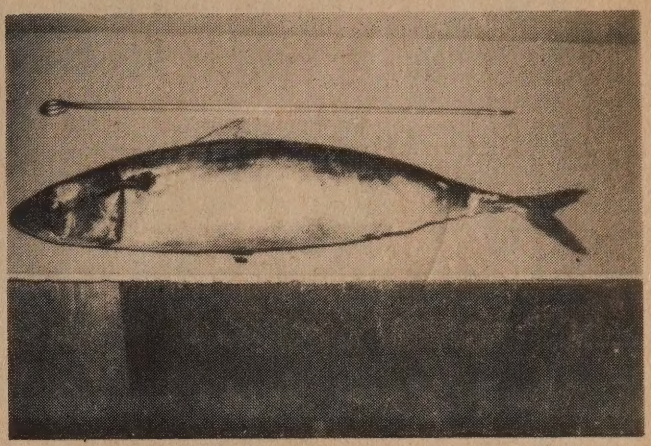
9. File off burrs left by hacksaw

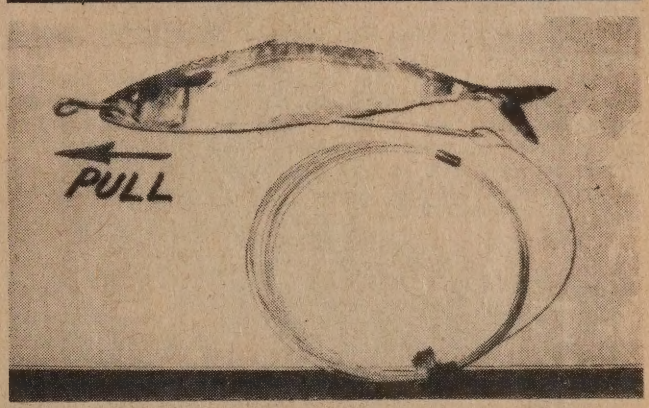
III. HOW TO USE

1. Push point through mouth of bait and out vent hole. (See picture)
2. Hook eye of leader into slot.
3. Pull eye of needle back out mouth of bait, leader will come attached to point.
4. Remove leader from needle and pull leader out of bait until hook is set into bait with only bend and barb showing.

also

For small baits (butterfish, snappers, etc.) run the needle all the way through bait to tail. This will place the hook in the tail and the small bait will drift naturally.





Sinker Bouncing: CAPT CLARK

(Continued from page 12.)

enough to keep everyone happy. Up anchor again—this time to head for another area known for its good porgy fishing; but much to our disappointment, few fish came aboard. Back to the wreck that had earlier produced so handsomely for us. Here we spent the last hour with enough fish to keep everybody satisfied, but nothing like the action we had experienced before the wind increased.

Captain Clark told me that if it hadn't been for that strong wind, we could have finished the day over grounds where he knew fish were sure to be found. But I felt that actually there was no need to—everyone had plenty of fish. Some, in fact, had more than fifty apiece. Toward the end of the day, a few fishermen relaxed in the cabin, instead of spending their fishing time at the rail. As one fisherman said to me between gulps of hot coffee: "What could I possibly do with more fish than I have?" True enough.

On the way back to the dock, Kevin settled the pool to the tune of $27 for the lucky angler. With that interesting moment out of the way, he began his daily chore of fish-cleaning for the passengers who wished to relax after a hectic day. His flashing knife was kept busy, as porgy after porgy was gutted and beheaded with expert ease.

Before stepping ashore, Captain Clark reminded me that he expects some excellent blackfishing over the Peconic wrecks in late September and early October. He told me to be sure to be on hand. I don't think I'll need a second invitation—you can bet I'll try to be there.

When I left, Kevin was still cleaning porgies.

The Maiden Voyage of the VIKING STARSHIP

by Stu Miller

The ride out to Montauk in the wee hours of the morning is always just a little erie and always filled with excitement and anticipation. With the car's radio fading in and out, I looked forward to the maiden voyage of Capt. Paul Forsberg's brand new "Viking Starship" out to Cox's Ledge for 'Bacala.'

The parking lot at the Viking Dock was jammed when I pulled in, about an hour before sailing time, but I found a spot and parked. Your first impression of something new there is the big green backlighted name "Viking Starship" on the boat's superstructure. Going aboard and past the milling and eager anglers, I racked my rod, stowed my Pepsi cooler and gear and wandered around. The mates were busy shucking sacksfull of skimmer clams and dragging aboard the big cakes of salt ice to put in the huge ice chest to keep the coming day's catch fresh.

We would be sailing with a capacity crowd of 150, ranging from novices to regulars.

At 4 A.M. the big twin Mercedes-Benz diesels roared to life and soon, with three blasts of the horn, Capt. Forsberg backed her away from the dock, did a 180 degree turn with a spin of the big stainless steel wheel and headed for the jetties. From the immense observation deck, the stillness and peacefullness of Montauk Harbor could be seen in the bulb-lit night.

After passing the Lightouse, I returned to the main deck to set up my rod. There's a good 4-5' between the rail and cabin bulkhead, giving lots of fishing room for anyone not fishing the bow or stern.

The huge cabin was already alive with card games, breakfasters, fish tale tellers, loud chatter and of course, a vast array of sleeping bodies. The seating accommodations in the cabin consists of 2 rows of three-across airplane style reclining seats, giving aid and comfort for 70 men. Paul has, of course, incorporated a heated fishing rail on the boat, long a top feature of the "Viking Star." Brand new on the Starship is a HEATED DECK for winter codfishing. Fares will be able to fish 'Bacala' in more comfort than ever on wintertime cod trips. Imagine...warm tootsies and warm hands while out for cod in the dead of winter...what'll they think of next?

Capt. Forsberg pointed out the boat's closed circut TV, which lets him see what's happening in the stern. A second camera in the wheelhouse scans the electronics and this picture gets piped down to the TV set at the front of the main cabin, allowing passengers to see just what the captain sees under the boat. Ball games and other regular programming can also be tuned in and should be a boon on the extended trips Cruising at 2100 RPM, the engines of 1500 h.p. each pusn the 140' long by 27'6" wide vessel at a true 20.2 knots. Opened up she will do 22 knots, true. Paul says that as far as he knows, the Starship is the fastest partyboat of conventional hull design in the world due to the power/weight ratio.

Later this year, side thrusters will be installed, which will enable drift angle/direction and boat movement over wrecks to be precisely controlled. At the same time, the paneling and additional insulation will be installed, as well as the furnace for the heated rail and deck.

By spring, the compartments on the lower deck will house 70 full bunks for those who demand their beauty sleep, since 70 will be the limit for the Nantucket and offshore wreck trips. Showers will be there for passengers, too.

The aft part of the main cabin contains the boat's restaurant, from which the fantastic aroma of broiling hamburgers, broiling onions and cheeseburgers rise and envelop the boat all day.

The Starship, 3 years in the planning, had her keel laid at the beginning of Jan. 1977 by Blount Shipyard, in Rhode Island and they completed her just 2 weeks ago. The hull is of special hi-tensil Milairlar steel, with an aluminum superstructure. The cost? Nearly $750,000 with $200,000 of that in the engines alone!

The engines turn two 44" diameter, 38" pitch, 4-blade, hi-speed props.

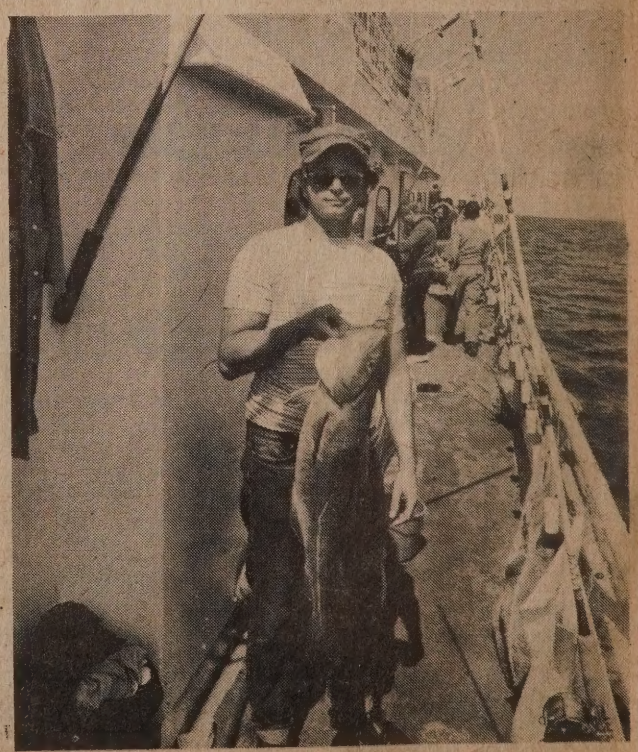
Besides the usual electronics, (of which there are plenty), Paul has the latest Wesmar Sonar, which is said to be the ultimate in fish locating gear. There's also a "Fish Scope" for determining the size of fish under the boat.

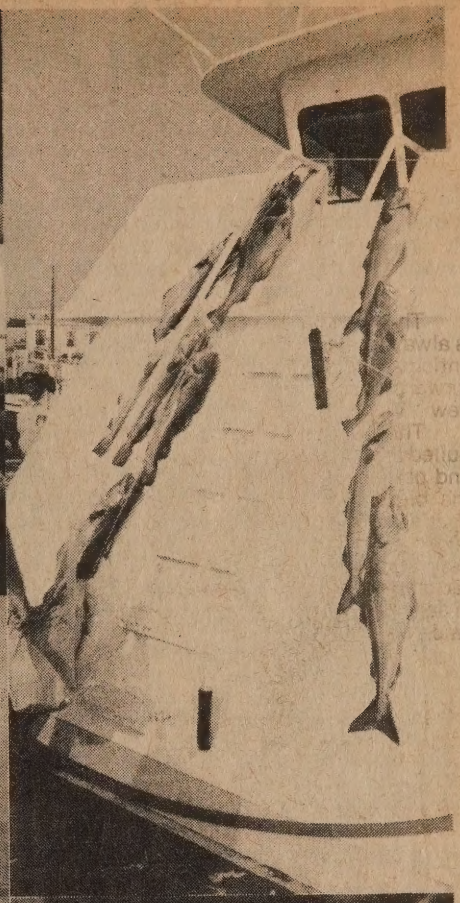
The weather was great all day—a bright sun in a blue sky. Seas stayed calm. Several long drifts at Cox's Ledge saw a slow to fair pick of small cod from 3-10 pounds, with a few belly busters taken also. Then Paul announced that he was going to hit a nearby wreck to wrap up the day. We got there in short order. After the anchors were set and the boat positioned, one toot on the horn had the clam baits headed to the bottom. Hook-ups were almost immediate, with approximately 20 good cod and pollack eventually coming over the rail, up out of this deep, crystal clear ripping water. It was here that I got my one fish, an 18 lb. cod (yum-yum).

First fish of the day, which must go in the record book as the 1st fish caught on the new vessel, was a 16 lb. bluefish caught on clam by Harvey Geller, a regular. The pool fish was a 35 lb. cod caught by Jay Ruise of Rutherford, N.J. on clam.

My impressions? Big. Fast. Comfortable. Great 'Burgers and Onions. Lots of fishing room and walking around room. A fast moving deck crew. Many innovations.

Good luck and good fishing, Viking Starship and Capt. Paul Forsberg.





The Truth About Shinnecock Canal

by Joe Lacava

In eastern Suffolk, just past Riverhead, the island splits into a North and South Fork. The North Fork is bounded by Long Island Sound and the Peconic Bays. The South Fork is bounded by the Peconics and Shinnecock Bay. In the village of Hampton Bays, at one of the narrowest parts of this Fork, there exists an area where an engineering creation allows waterway access across the South Fork -- this is Shinnecock Canal.

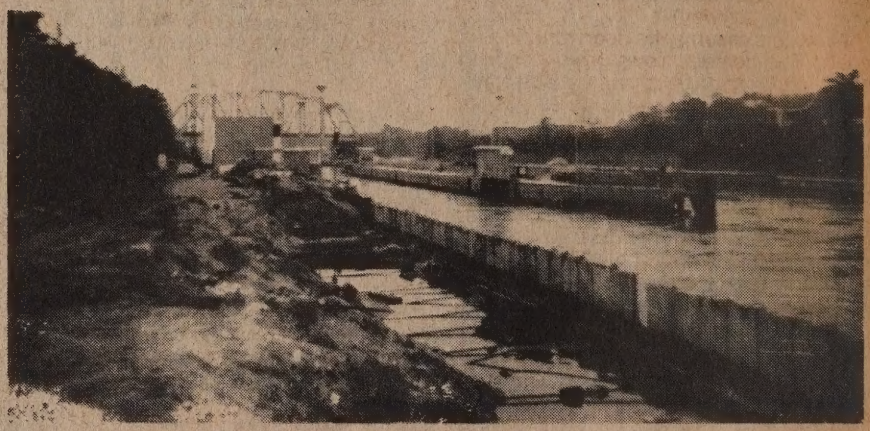
Recently, my fishing and boating interests have led me to Hampton Bays and the very famous, and often misunderstood Canal. One of my initial concerns was to know the how, and why of its operation. I've read and heard many times about the opening and closing of the canal; its relationship between various tides and their influence on the locks and tidal doors. The more information I'd get, the more confused I'd become. I'd travel to the Canal and expect the gates to be closed, only to find them open, damping any fishing ideas I'd have. So, I decided to concentrate my efforts and use my own feeble mind to go thru the information I had, gather additional data, and determine the "inner secrets" of the Canal.

I went to the Shinnecock determined to come home with all the knowledge necessary to become a Canal expert, since everyone I talked with either had no idea of how it worked or disavowed any concern whatever.

Observing the construction of the Canal, one can almost immediately understand the operation and purpose of the structure. The water levels of the Peconic Bay and Shinnecock Bay are at different elevations, at various stages of their tides. If the canal weren't there, a waterway without locks and tidal doors would cause each bay to drain into the other when they were at their respective higher levels. Of course, this wouldn't bother the Peconics too much, but would turn the already shallow Shinnecock Bay into a mud hole; therefore, the Canal.

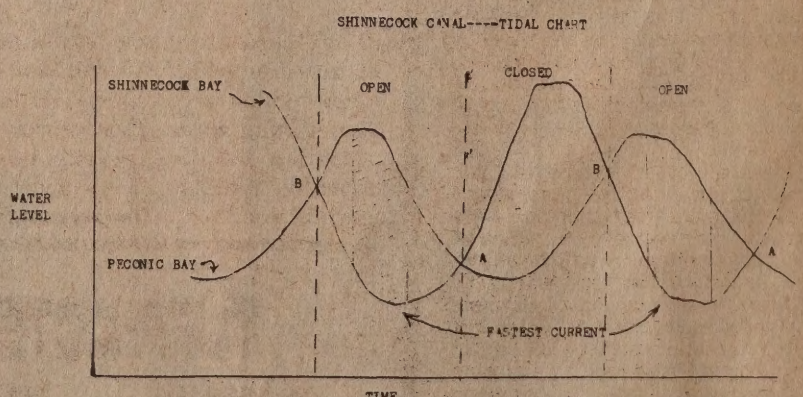
The Canal is bounded by the Peconic Bays at its North end and Shinnecock Bay at its South end. The East side of the Canal has hydraulic locks which are manned by operators 24 hours a day. The west side has three sets of tidal doors, which are operated by the current flow between the bays.

Let us now assume that the tidal doors and locks are closed. As boats approach the canal, they can enter the lock only, and not proceed thru the tidal doors. The tidal doors are hinged to swing from an open position, north toward the Peconics to close. They cannot be moved at will. So, if the front lock door is open the vessel can proceed directly into the lock where the rear door is of course already closed. When the operator decides that enough boats are in, he will close the rear door and change the water level in



LOOKING SOUTH—CANAL IN OPEN POSITION
Locks on left—Tidal doors at right.

LOOKING NORTH—CANAL OPEN
Locks at right—Tidal doors on left.



When Shinnecock Bay starts rising, the current flow toward Peconic Bay forces the tidal gates to swing north and close. This current exists only when the water level in Shinnecock Bay is higher than Peconic Bay.

Gates close approximately + 2:30 from Shinnecock Bay low tide; open and closed durations are approximately six hours.

Fastest current exists when gates are open and the great level difference occurs.

the lock by adding or removing water (depending on the direction of travel) until the lock water level is the same as the water level of the bay the boats are proceeding to. Then he will open the front lock door to complete the process and allow the vessels to proceed. During this time (doors closed) practically no current exists in the area and this is when you can fish without overloading your line with sinkers; (which probably won't help anyway).

Now, lets assume the doors and lock is open. The current flows from north to south and varies from slight to dangerous at times; and at these times fishing is almost impossible, and boating can be treacherous for the inexperienced. During this time northbound traffic must proceed thru the lock and southbound traffic thru the tidal doors. Many boats have gotten into trouble during the open stages since the southbound traffic has an extremely strong following sea, forcing boats into a yawing status. Northbound boats must push like heck to overcome this strong current flow.

Now for the big question--when, and why it opens and closes (we've already mentioned how). There are approximately four hours between the high tides of each bay, similarly with low tides. As Shinnecock Bay starts rising it reaches a point where its level is higher than Peconic Bay.(Point A on chart). This creates a south to north current flow forcing the tidal doors to close (remember these are just hinged). The operator then closes the lock doors and the canal is in a closed condition. (Now you can fish comfortably from the Canal banks). This condition has a duration of approximately 6 hours, which just happens to be the approximate time for the tides to change. At this time, (point B on chart), the Peconics are flooding and the level at the canal is higher than Shinnecock Bay, which is then in its ebbing stage. Now the current flows from north to south forcing open the tidal doors. The operator then opens the lock doors and the canal is in an open condition. Fishing and boating are now lousy. This open condition also lasts the approximate duration of the tide.(6 hours). At certain times during this open period, the current strength can be extremely fast. This exists when the difference of the water levels between the two bays are greatest. (shaded area on chart). At the beginning and end of the open state, the current is slow, since the elevation difference between the two bays are small.

Disregard all other information you have read about when the canal opens and closes. I have tried that and have been greatly confused by the myriad of answers I have gotten. I went directly to the lock operator. The lock and gates close approximately two and a half hours after Shinnecock Bay low tide. Since this low tide information is given weekly in the Long Island Fisherman, the closing time is readily available. The opening time is approximately 6 hours before and after closing time.

With this information you now know as much as I about the canal and will be able to schedule your fishing and boating trips reliably.

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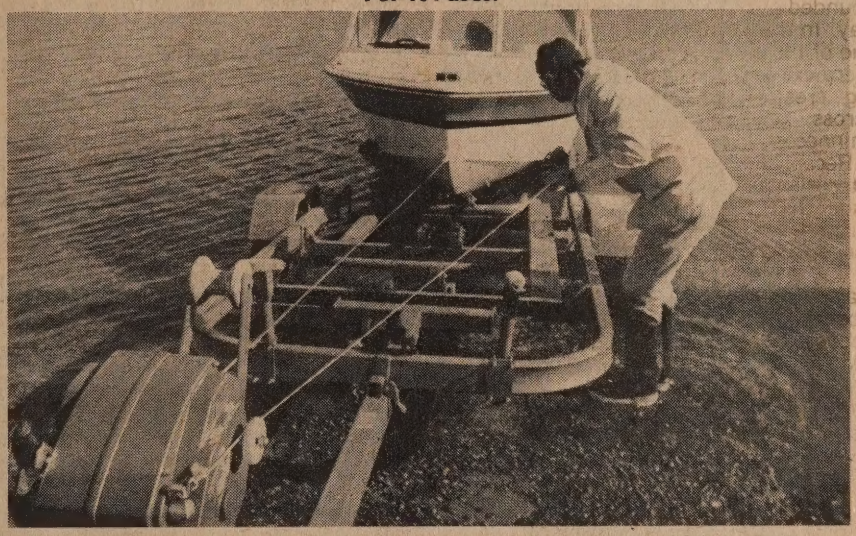

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

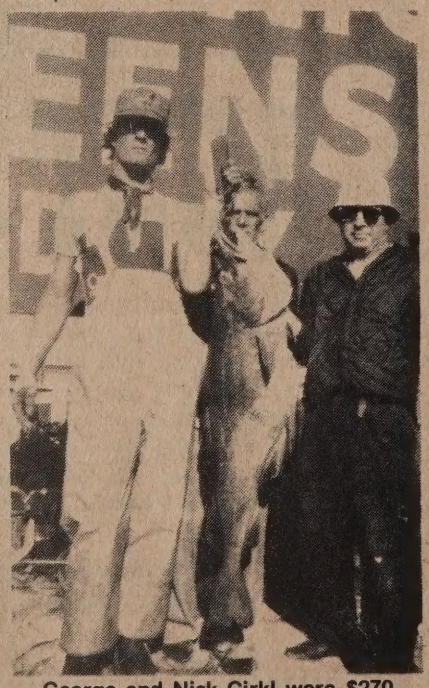
MONTAUK

Capt. Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** reported that the porgy fishing is super excellent with the daily high hook ranging from 105 to 110 fish. Many anglers have in the 80s with the average angler taking about 40 porgies. A couple fluke, sea bass and blackfish are mixed in with the porgies in the area in front of the Lighthouse. The Captain said that the night bluefishing with herring has also been excellent off Block Island. On Thursday night 30 men took over 600 bluefish ranging from 8 to 14 pounds and on Saturday night 30 anglers took over 400 big choppers.

Capt. Paul Sundburg of the charterboat **Montauk** reported the offshore fishing has been good. On Sunday the charter caught a small tiger shark and a blue shark. Paul said that the "Seacon" took five true albacore 35 miles south of the Point. Paul said that his boat had one giant tuna on for 45 minutes before dropping the fish. Cartwright is now loaded with bluefish and the **Montauk** is now accepting charters for 6 passengers for diamond jigging or fishing with herring bait for these monster bluefish. Give Paul a call at 668-2056 for further details.

Capt. George McTurck of the charterboat **Sportfisher** said that the bluefishing has been great just about everywhere: North of the jetties, at the Pocketbook Grounds, the Submarine Buoy, the Triangle, Great Eastern The Elbow, etc. A few boats are also picking at the bass during the day around Great Eastern. Not too many weakfish left but the blues being taken trolling and diamond jigging are all in the 8 to 10 lb. class.

Capt. Warren Hader of the charterboat **Devilfish** called to say that he has just repowered the boat for more speed to the offshore grounds. On Sunday a mako of 225 pounds and one blue shark was taken on an offshore trip. On Sat. the bluefishing was great at the Triangle, although no weakfish were taken. Saturday's morning trip produced 68 blues and 43 were taken on the afternoon trip.



George and Nick Cirkl were $270. pool winners with this fish of 66¾ lbs. plus 6 others over 35 lbs. aboard the "Peconic Queen III" out of Montauk.

Capt. Frank Maccaro of the charterboat **Free Spirit** called to say that the boat had a dynamite week starting on Tuesday when two makos in the 125 lb. class were caught and two blue sharks were tagged and released. On Wed. a 95 lb. mako was taken and on Thurs. the boat took two monster blue sharks that weighed 225 lbs. each. Fishing on Friday was in 40 Fathoms, where a mako shark of 191 pounds was taken and a swordfish estimated to be in the 450 lb. class was dropped after being fought for one hour by a Emillio Pandolsi. On Sat. 2 blue sharks over 200 pounds were nailed in one of the captain's favorite spots. Sunday's score was a mako of 120 pounds and a blue shark of 230 pounds with four other blue sharks tagged and released. Frank has the afternoon trip on September 18th open for inshore fishing and a full day opening on Sept. 24th.

Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** reported porgy fishing as great with no let ups so far. On Sat. and Sun. between 600 and 700 anglers who came to Montauk for porgies went home satisfied. Bud says don't buy 'em, fry 'em, fish on the **Viking Skipper** and hook 'em and hook 'em.

Capt. Fritz Hubner of the famous charterboat **Mistress Too** called to say that he bagged his second giant bluefin tuna of the season on Tuesday. On Friday, the 19th, Arnold Freas III and Tim Laughlin were aboard and took a 951 lb. bluefin. Another monster estimated at over 1000 pounds was lost when it tangled the line in a string of lobster pots. The boat's second bluefin weighed in at 838 pounds. A second fish was on for 4½ hours and broke off under the boat. Fritz said that the giant tuna are so thick in the area east of Block Island that he actually ran over one on Sunday. The giant came up in front of the boat to pick up a ling and there was a resounding thud for all to hear. Fritz said the inshore fishing is also great. On Friday morning's trip 60 bluefish were in the boat by 10 A.M. and the anglers were ready to pack it in. In the afternoon trip 4 anglers took 40 blues in three hours of fishing.

Capt. John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** called to report that the bass fishing has come alive during the daytime hours despite the presence of a full moon. Friday afternoon John's charter took 8 bass using John's new tube jig, average size 18-20 pounds with the two largest fish going 30 and 46 pounds respectively. 52 big bluefish up to 18 pounds were taken in the same area around Great Eastern. On Friday's morning trip, 3 bass and 33 bluefish were taken on jigs. The bass were in good Sunday morning also and the party jigged 12 bass using Ava-47 diamond jigs.

Mickey Chiarenza, President of Tri-Fin Lures, called to say that bass are being taken around Great Eastern both trolling and using diamond jig. On Friday morning, Mickey trolled bass of 18 and 24 pounds trolling a 5 oz. red Rip Eel in the Pollack Rip. Then a 9 lb. bass and a mess of blues were taken on diamond jigs just northeast of Great Eastern buoy. Mickey said that on the way out to the fishing grounds Friday afternoon he came across a huge school of bluefish about one mile in diameter in the area around Washington Shoals. They proved to be finicky eaters, but finally the right combination was found—trolling a half ounce pink and white Jig 'N Tail on monofilament, 23 bluefish were taken before arms got weary and they left biting fish. On Sat. morning Mickey took 2 bass up to 23 pounds using one of his newly developed red three ounce Sand Eel Jig.

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Mickey noted that the fish were unusually fat.

Ronnie Grandinetti of the **Julie III** and a party of 6 led by Dennis and Brian Wilson caught 55 fluke from 4 to 8 pounds 2 ounces, 78 blues 6 to 13 pounds, 2 striped bass and a mess of porgies and sea bass on Saturday. Fluke were taken at Block Island and the bluefish were taken at the Sub Buoy and the Triangle. Sunday's party led by Gus had 5 bass up to 21 pounds, a dozen bluefish to 12 pounds and a load of big porgies taken at Great Eastern.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charterboat **Adios** called to say that bluefishing is excellent and a few bass are now being taken around Great Eastern. Phil said that he hasn't had a chance to go for the giant tuna yet but the offshore shark fishing is still pretty good. On Fri. Bill White of Bellport took a 200 lb. blue shark that took over an hour to bring to gaff. A few brown sharks were also bagged.

Capt. Dick Vigilant of the charterboat **Triton II** had the Jackson Heights Anglers out on the weekend and they loaded up on sea bass and porgies. On Sat. night 160 monster bluefish were taken on herring at Cartwright. On Sunday 170 bluefish were bagged diamond jigging in the Triangle.

Hank Neville of **Gone Fishing Marina** reported that fluke fishing is still very good in the rips. On the weekend a party of 4 had a "Ladie's Day", with woman anglers catching the doormats. Rae and Ed Urban and Bertha and Nestori Pakin rented a boat and caught a mess of fluke, largest a 10 pound doormat taken by Rae and a five pounder taken by Bertha. Hank said that he will be selling the marina's 16' 1977 Stratford Dories and 15 h.p. Evinrude outboards below dealers cost to interested anglers. For further info, give Hank or his wife a call at 668-3232.

79 weaks and bluefish for John, Richard, and Ira. The fish were taken on Ava jigs aboard Capt. John DeMaios charterboat "Vivienne" out of Montauk.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that the giant bluefin tuna are still being taken in good numbers east of Block Island. Some of those weighed in during the week were a 675 lb. giant taken by "Big Al" Riccio on the "Corsair" along with Richard Paladori. On Friday Rich and Big Al took a 775 lb. giant on the "Aquaholic." They scored again on Sunday aboard the "Aquaholic" with a bluefin of 519 pounds. On Thursday, the "Say Fish" took a giant of 670 pounds, and on Friday Richie on the "Our Pleasure" had one of 810 pounds. Two giants were weighed in on Sunday. The boat "For Petes Sake" had a fish of 762 pounds and Ronnie Marone on the "Ronnie's Too" took a bluefin of 705 pounds on 80 lb. test dacron. On Saturday the "Meditation" took two mako sharks and Capt. Artie Jost on the **Sea Hunter** brought in a white marlin of around 70 pounds.

Art Munday called in to report for the **Westlake Fishing Lodge Fleet**. Art said that the boats have been picking a few bass in the 20 to 30 lb. class early in the morning around Great Eastern. Bluefishing is still very good around the Point and the Triangle and the charterboats have been scoring well trolling and using diamond jigs. Art said that the **Darius II** dropped three tuna during the week that hit light tackle. The captain noted that those going tuna fishing should expect to pay a little more for bait as the fishing is done by chunking with herring or bunker. The charterboat **Free Spirit** had a good week with 5 mako sharks and 4 blue sharks over 200 pounds. The boat also tagged and released nine blue sharks and dropped a 400 pound plus swordfish after an hour's battle in the

Shown here are two makos caught on a recent trip aboard the "Sea Doll" out of Montauk.

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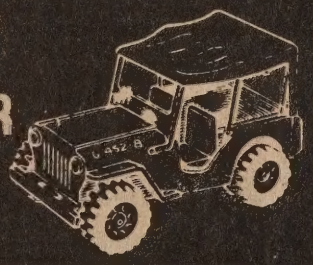

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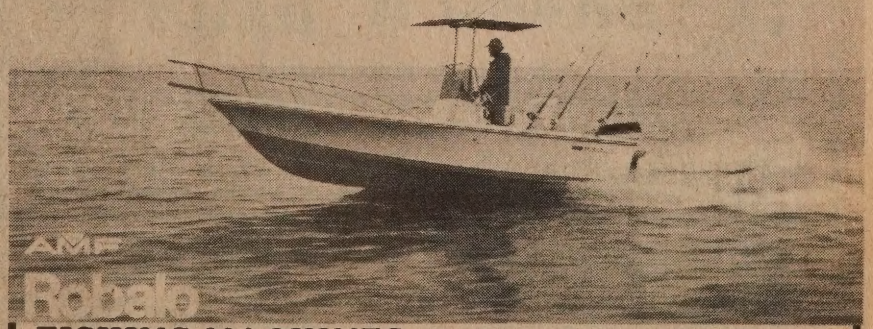

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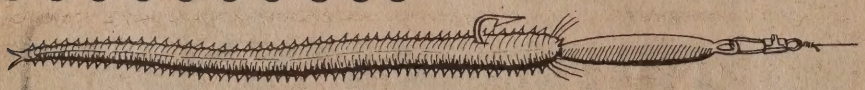

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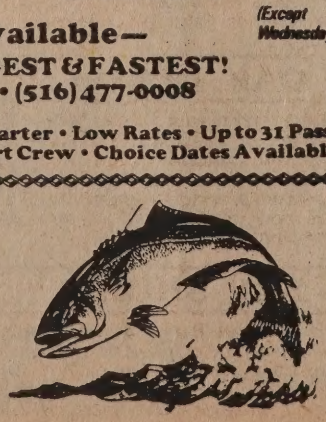

chum slick. Capt. Whitey Bateman on the **Four Queens** took 8 bluefin tuna to 80 pounds trolling feathers offshore. He also had some bonito and albacore. Capt. Gary Kieffer on the charterboat **Barracuda** had a real giant something on Sunday. The fish was on for four hours and was never seen, finally breaking the line. On Thurs. the boat took a mako of 70 pounds and inshore trips have been producing between 30 and 40 bluefish for a half day. The **Darius II** is doing well both inshore and offshore, and only have five weekdays open during Sept. Fritz on the **Say Gee** has been doing well inshore on blues and bass. The boat is one of the few that has open dates for weekends in September. On Sunday George Kimmel weighed in a 17 lb., fluke at **Westlake Fishing Lodge** that he took drifting between can No. 3 and No. 5 on the last of the outgoing water. Jimmy George, who made a reputation for himself with the 1,039 lb. mako shark last month, is going to marry Miss. Jane Lewis on Sat. Sept. 3rd at 7 P.M. The ceremony will be held on back of Jimmy's boat "Craps II," and a reception is planned at Forty Fathoms with several boats fishing overnight for sharks.

Capt. Larry Rodriguez said that his charterboat **Tiderunner** was at the right place at the right time this past weekend. The first day saw Don Butler and his party take 4 sharks: two makos and two blues. Don has his 11 year old son John with him. Little John beat a 125 lb. blue shark on his own. The rest of the party, Little John, and Big John each took the makos. Don had the biggest, a 125 lb. blue shark. The following day on two half day trips saw a mixed bag of 40 bluefish and 5 weakfish. The blues ran to 14 pounds, while the weaks were in the 10 lb. class. Capt. Larry says the waters both offshore and inshore were extremely calm and beautiful. Dates are going fast, so if you are planning a charter, don't hesitate to call now. 516-929-4782.

On Friday, Dr. Frederick Bagnini of Great Neck took a giant bluefin tuna of 945 pounds on his boat "Patrice" which sails out of the Deep Sea Club. The fish was weighed in at Henry Colombi's **Star Island Yacht Club.**

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows Sr. of the **Capt. Clark Fleet** called to say that the **Capt. Clark II** fished offshore at the Shinnecock Artificial Reef and the Panther Wreck on Sat. and Sun. with great results. The sea bass fishing was fantastic with many humpbacks ranging up to 4½ pounds. A few pollack and blackfish were mixed in. The Captain said the boat will run offshore on weekends whenever the weather permits. To show you how great the fishing is, Tom Hester and his wife Jenny had 193 sea bass. The **Capt. Clark** has been fishing the Peconic Bay wreck and is doing very, very good on the porgies with a few kingfish and weakfish mixed in. Nancy Awtwine of St. Albans was high hook on Sunday with 68 porgies.

HAMPTON BAYS

Bradley's Fishing Station reports good snapper fishing right in front of the station on small shiners and bobbers and small tins. Fluke are to be had fishing the inlet in the East Channel with sand eels and squid. Fish are 14 to 16 inches in length and boats are bringing back roughly 6 keepers per boat.

MORICHES BAY

Romona of the **Silly Lily Fishing Sta.** called to say the fluke fishing has been holding up very good. Best action has been at the Elbow on any moving tide using sand eel and squid for bait. On Thurs. Joe Obermeier and friends Mike and Joey brought in 16 nice fluke up to 3 pounds. Romona said that big snappers are

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Steve Alter of Skidmores Fishing Station and his 8 lb. 9 oz. fluke taken on sandeels and squid in the elbow area.

also in the same area. Virtually no one has been crabbing so there is no news in that department.

John at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** called in to say that the boats fishing offshore have been doing a good job with sharks and skipjacks. On Sat. Stan Faneski took a 225 lb. blue shark, and Joel Bigora had a blue of 190 pounds. Leo Boyce of the "Patricia Lee" took a yellowfin tuna of 226 pounds in 150' of water on a live whiting south of Moriches Inlet. Skipjack have moved into the area south of the inlet in 100 to 120' of water and are being trolled on green and yellow feathers. On Sunday Joe Bigora took a 40 lb. mako and 3 skipjack. Stan Bigora and Tom Covitz had a 60 lb. brown shark, five skipjack and one dolphin. Don Clark on the "Sea Horse" had a mako of 60 pounds and a mess of skipjack. Tony Rizzo on the "Nino" trolled 16 skipjack. John said that the fluke fishing has been slow, but large snappers are being taken by the hundreds. Crabbing is also slow.

MASTIC BEACH

Steritz Fishing Station reports snappers are all over the place, best at buoys 9 and 12. Ray Perrone had over 220 snappers on Sunday from 1-1½ lbs. Crabs are spotty but big at buoys 17 and 15. Weaks are being taken at Buoy 24 with one customer bringing back 6 weaks up to 6 lbs taken on squid tipped Salty Dogs. At the Inlet there are large blues on top and weaks on the bottom in the evening on umbrellas or on bunker spoons.

WEST SAYVILLE

Marty at **SOUTHBAY Fishing Station** reports excellent weakfishing at Buoy 30 on squid strips, while fluke in the same area are taking sand eels. Some blows and kings are hitting clam baits on the bottom. John Comito and Tom Maranga of Brooklyn took 12 weakfish, 48 blows, 6 fluke, 5 kings and some huge eels plus 66 snappers on Sunday. Snappers at all the docks on spearing and very small lures. Very few crabs.

SAYVILLE

Young's Fishing Station reports that Al and Joan of Brooklyn, fishing with Doc Pine had over 25 weaks on Monday fishing squid strips off La Salle Academy. Nick Savene and cousins put all to shame for the week with 126 weaks on squid strips off buoy 24 on Friday. The Nillson family caught weaks, fluke and blowfish plus a few blues a half mile out of Brown's River on Saturday with squid and clam baits.

OAK BEACH

The Store reports a lot of fluke being taken on both sides of **The Store** and throughout F.I. Inlet. One customer had 15 fluke and another brought in 20 fluke. It seems to all be on sandeels or spearing. Snappers are all over the place now in the 10-12" range taking small spearing and small tins.

BAY SHORE

Carl at **Smokies Bait and Tackle** tells of some weakfish being taken between the Lighthouse and the CG Station on the flood on sandworms and live snappers. Steve Eggbert had a ten lb weak on Thurs. morning on live snapper. Fluking remains pretty good on sandeels and squid in the same area with a

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Maria Anthony and Stacey and Richard Miller with 20 fluke from 2-4½ lbs. taken west of the bridge on squid and sandeel combos. Photo courtesy of Smokeys Bait and Tackle.

sprinkling of blowfish and a few kingfish. On the fluke baits and also some clam on a small hook. Porgy action very good around the wreck buoy on clam or worms. A 30 lb stripper wast taken by Remmy Hayes Jr. on a diamond jig in front of the construction dock while jigging for weaks on the inside. Snappers are all over the bay on small spearing and small tins and good catches are being made off the Bay Shore Dock along with a few nice fluke as well. Tuna have been taken this week in 125' of water, 115 degrees out of F.I. Inlet on red and white feathers or green and yellow feathers. One hundred and fifty degrees out of the inlet, same depth is also producing fish in the fifty lb class. A lot of bait is what's holding the tuna in that area. Blufishing very good at the Three Sisters and Cholera for both trollers and chummers.

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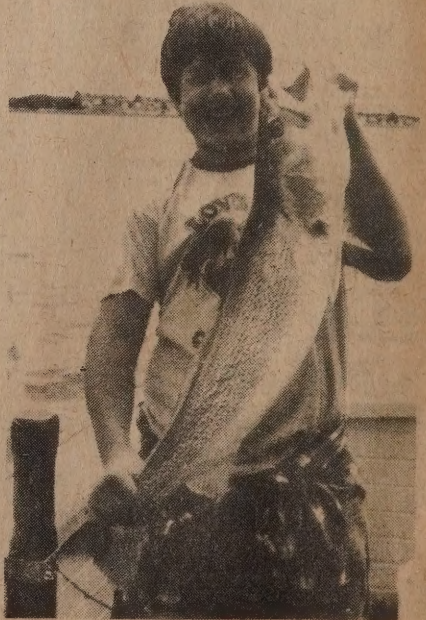

Stevie Zachensky holds a 10½ lb. weakfish he caught aboard the charterboat "Sea Star" out of Captree. Subscriber Club Photo.

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NATIONAL SCENE

(Continued from page 6.)

who serve without compensation, except for expenses. The Council has asked Dr. Cronin to stay on as chairman of the S&S Committee, and he has agreed to do so. His Place on the Council will be taken by Harry Michael Keene, a sportfisherman.

As we hoped, our chairman, Capt. Dave Hart, was reappointed, as was Dr. Bill Hargis, Director of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. At our August meeting, Dave Hart was re-elected chairman and Elliot Goldman received another term as vice-chairman.

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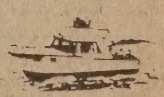

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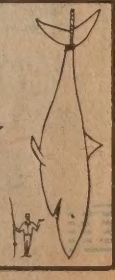

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CAPTREE

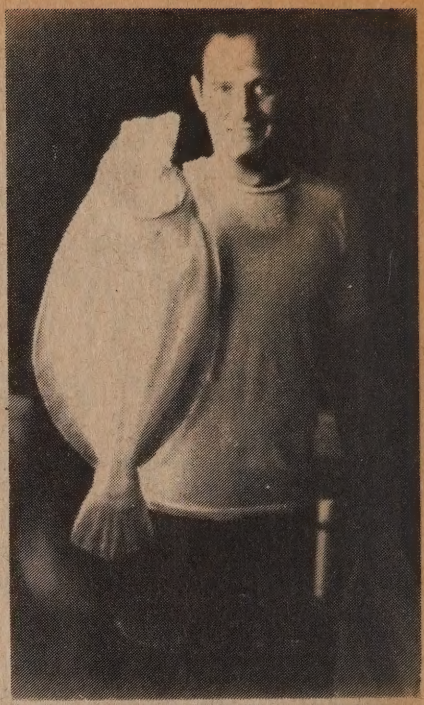
Capt. Neil of the **Lady Ann** called to say that Friday's day trip for blues saw 16 men take 130 jumbo blues on bananas and diamond jigs. Friday's night trip saw 90 big blues taken on bait and chum. Saturday's day fluke trip saw 55 keepers come over the rail. Saturday's night trip saw 155 giant blues brought in on bait and chum. Sunday's fluke trip had 95 fluke for 17 men. Sunday's afternoon blue trip saw just 3 bluefish caught, the poor result probably due to the full moon tide. Best fluking has been from buoy 20 to the mouth of the inlet on killie and squid or on sandeels. The bluefishing has been E/S/E of the inlet in 90' of water.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** reported that the bluefishing was very good most of the week but Sat. action was only fair and Sunday's can only be described as poor. Friday was the best day for bluefishing of the year with 59 anglers taking over 700 bluefish. Some were over 25 a man. This action has been around the HA buoy 28 to 35 miles offshore. The fish are very thick in this area and range from 7 to 15 pounds, so it is definitely worth the run. Locally inshore the bluefishing has been very slow, and day fishing has been better than the nights. The day action has been strictly using either Ava green bananas or Ava-27 and 47 diamond jigs. No chum is used—when a school of blues is found, they are jigged with the tubes and diamond jigs. Speedy noted that what the boat saves in chum they burn up in fuel chasing schools of bluefish. The fishing at night has been a different story running hot and cold and chumming with bait is the only way to go. The captain said that he will be planning between 4 and 6 special offshore tilefishing trips this fall, the first sometime in mid September. The trips will be limited to 40 anglers instead of 50 so that there is more fish room and the fare will be raised $10 from $45 to $55. Watch this column for details.

The **Capt. Rod** reported that fluke fishing has been good in the mornings on the last of the flood tide but has been pretty slow at other times. Best action has been west of the bridge in Fire Island Inlet, and the pool on Sunday was 6 pounds. One boat at Captree had a 14 lb. doormat on the weekend in this area. Killies and sand eels seem to be the best bait. Snappers are very abundant and sometimes it's hard to keep fluke baits on the bottom.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** reported the fluke fishing has slowed down and has been in a slump since last Sunday. A few good trips were made during mid-week with anglers averaging 6 to 8 fish per man, but most of the catches have been lower. Gordon said this could be either a result of the cold spell earlier in the week, the strong full moon tides, or the fact that there is so many schools of sand eels in the inlet. The draggers aren't taking any fish outside as of yet, so the fluke are still staying.

Suffolk County police officer James Leinbaugh with a 6 lb. 2 oz. fluke taken aboard the "Jib VI out of Captree. Subscriber Club Photo.



Paul sternschein of the Bronx took this 9 lb. 8 oz. fluke in the vicinity of buoy 13 and Wilson's Dock in Fire Island Inlet on an afternoon fluke trip aboard the "Captree Queen."

BABYLON

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** reports good fluking this past week and weekend in Snake Hill Channel and in the Inlet between the Sore Thumb and the CG Station with sand eels working best followed by killie-squid combos. John Gotcht and Son J.B. and Mike McKlosky had 20 weaks in the 3 lb class taken 300 yds. east of the bridge on Salty Dogs tipped with clam strips. The clammers are getting very good catches of weaks on clam. Very good mixed bags of weaks and fluke now being brought in by Bill's skiffs.

Charlie's Fishing Station reports all of their boats are bringing back fluke being taken in the State Channel on squid and sandeels. Porgies are being caught in the E/W channel on squid and sandeels also - there are lots of them being taken in the 10" category. On Sunday, the Inzirilla group filled a bushel with porgies. Snappers are in abundance on shinners.

LINDENHURST

John at **Charlie's Bait and Tackle** informs us that Sunday was Joey G's 35th birthday and believe it or not yesterday morning he caught a 35 lb 2 oz stripped bass at the South Beach off the CG Station on live bunker in the wee hours of the morning. A very appropriate birthday present. Happy Birthday, Joe! Nice weakfish being caught by the hole off the lighthouse on live snapper or bunker along

Elsie Poucel caught this 199 lb. 8 oz. Atlantic big eyed tuna aboard the "Kathy Queen". Elsie is a member of the Babylon Tuna Club and the fish is a possible world record for the 50 lb. class. Photo courtesy of Augie's Bait and Tackle.

vith porgies which are hitting clam or worm aits. This is on both tides. Hardly any crabs round. Mucho snappers. Fluking has slowed bit but the fish are still available from the ighthouse to the mouth of the inlet on andeels, squid, best.

Duke's Bait and Tackle reports an bundance of snappers from all the docks rom 7-11 inches. Blacks at the Meadowbrook Bridge on the inside artificial reef on fidlers. Fluke has slowed up, but skin divers are eporting there are still a lot of fluke in the nlet. They say the huge amounts of bait are eing devoured by the fish and keeping them rom the baits. A few weakfish from boats and he surf in the inlet, off the CG Station and at he Old Lighthouse. best bluefishing has been rom 90-100' of water due south of the inlet. Plenty of tuna and bonito from 105 to 120 feet f water SE of the inlet with red and white eathers and cedar jigs working best. Frank afasso of Lindenhurst had a bluefin tuna of 1 lbs 2 ozs and a 10 lb 4 oz bonito on aturday. Two other tuna and a few bonito ere also boated by Frank's two buddies.

Capt. Tom of the **Sea Horse** reports fluking as okay during the week but slowed down aturday and Sunday. During the week verages were 4 to 7 fish per man, with the eekend averaging 2 to 3 fluke per man. ction was up and down Fire Island Inlet, articularly the Lighthouse area with sand els and squid. Tom will be scouting on the nside for porgies so stay tuned.

COPIAGUE

Jopnas Bait and Tackle reports Copiague angler Joe Spancione weighed in 3 nice strippers on Sat. morning of 14 lbs 10 ozs, 14 lbs 8 oz and an 8 pounder taken on bellies at the bridge. Joe lost 3 others. This was at 4:30 am on an incoming tide. A 15 lb doormat fluke was taken by Martin Stolburg at the inlet on a #2 Hopkins along with a couple of fluke on the same lure. Weaks off the Lighthouse, at Amityville Cut, Copiague Hole from 5-7 lbs, mostly on live snappers. A lot of porgies being taken at East Fox Creek, Copiague Hole, Amityville Cut and the State Channel on clam and worm. Snappers are abundant on spearing and saml tins. Lots of Montauk caught blues and bass being brought in by local customers, caught on umbrellas, jigs and bananas. Tuna at the Mud Hole on red and white feathers and cedar jigs.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle tells us that on Saturday, Bob Link, Bill Spraul and Bob Bianco tried tuna and came up with a 30 lb yellowfin and 6 bonito fishing 110' of water, 165 degrees out of the inlet on jet lures and cedar jigs. Others were caught there also. The boys also took some jumbo blues from 15 - 18 lbs. West Island is producing good sand porgy action along with some blows and kings and, of course, some fluke. The porgies are showing a preference for sandworms which the blows and king obligingly pick up also. The fluking is on sandeels and squid. The third Wantagh Bridge is producing weaks on live snapper as evidenced by Rich Worth who had 9 weaks on Sat. morning. Snappers are excellent on saml spearing with a float. Very few crabs in the eel grass flats and none off the docks.

SEAFORD

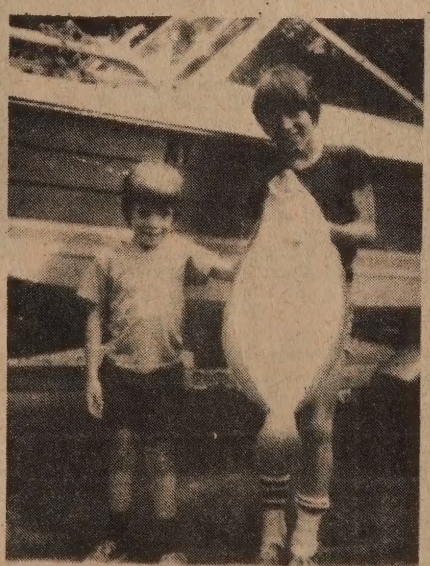
Salice's Fishing Station reports lots of fluke being taken between Four Corners and the third bridge on squid and killies. Weakfish at the Black Banks on Salty Dogs. Plenty of porgies all over, eager for a worm, and snappers, of course, are all over the place and you can really rack up a score on them.

BELLMORE

Scot at **Merrick Marine Supplies** reports blues at the 160' mark around the Ha buoy for trollers and those jigging. These are all 10-14 lb bruisers. Flounders are starting up in the Bays in the deep holes on clam baits. Weaks in the inlet on drifted live snapper. fluking is holding its own, but you have to work somewhat for your fish with sandeels and squid working best.

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station reports pretty good fluking in Broad Creek and haunts Creek on killies. Flounder activity is starting in rowboat alley and the holes in Swift Creek. Lot of snappers around, stealing bait. Bellmore



Jimmy Poppa, 12, caught this 10 lb. 1 oz. fluke on squid and sandell combo in Fire Island Inlet on the incoming tide aboard his dad's boat. Subscriber Club Photo.

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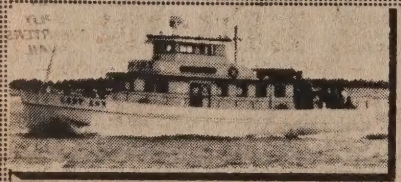

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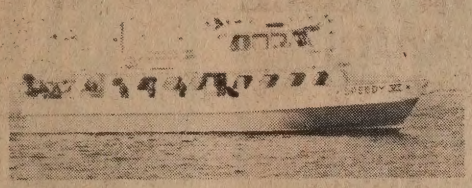

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Jimmy DeVita took this 9 lb. 3 oz. doormat fluke on a live snapper off of the Sore Thumb. The fish was weighed in at the Captree Bait Station. Subscriber Club Photo.

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$12 NO TOLLS —FREE PARKING—

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angler, George Zipper and buddy took 3 strippers on live bunker around the third Wantagh Bridge. These were teen fish. Small porgies starting at Merrick Pt. and the far end of row boat alley on squid or clam. Good catches of cod at some offshore wrecks.

BALDWIN

Arthur St. Fishing Sta. reports flounders in Swift Creek up to 2 pounds being taken on bloodworms, sandworm and clam, without chum. Some weaks and blues at the Meadowbrook Bridge on sandworms or live snapper. Crabs are starting to pick up in Middle Bay in baskets and on killie rings.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The **Capt. Al** reports fantastic fishing all week long for blues and bonito, but things slowed down on the weekend, with Al feeling that this was due to heavy boat traffic and to the full moon tide which played havoc with artificials and with chum and bait. The **Capt. II** had fair fluking on their half day trips fishing local creeks with sand eel and squid. She will be running half day trips for the whole Labor Day weekend.

Capt. Richie on the **Starstream II** tells us that last Sun. night Tom Shea and three buddies bailed 78 bluefish. They were from the Seven Sportsmens Club. They returned the following Mon. morning for the bottom fishing and once again loaded up with giant ling, and also took the pool with a ten pound cod. Generally the bottom fishing remains good with mainly giant ling being taken along with a sprinkling of seabass and an odd cod, pollack and porgies being taken also. Sat. pool was a 28 lb. hake and Sun. pool was a 6 lb. cod. The night bluefishing has been good all week but was slower on Saturday and Sunday night. Your reporter bailed 14 blues on Tuesday night, where Capt. Chris put all fares into fish immediately.

The **Capt. Hall** reports fair fluking all week with Tues. being very good. The change of tide is best. A couple weaks were taken in the inlet. Fishing is being done with sand eels and squid. Snappers are abundant and are tearing up baits all over the place. One customer caught and kept 73 snappers. A good shot is a live snapper for weaks at the slack. Some fluke on the outside on Sunday on sand eels.

The **Aloma II** reports Saturday's fluking was poor but that on Sunday he had one of the best days of the season, with fares averaging 10 to 12 fish each. Fish ran up to 5 pounds and there were ten fish taken between four and five pounds. This was all in Jones Inlet and outside the Inlet about 1 mile off the beach in 40' of water. Sand eels and squid did the trick.

Charterboat **Sea Hawk** called to say that on Tuesday's trip four Wit Herbert and 3 man party he scored with 32 blues from 3 to 7 pounds fishing the Three Sisters. The first three fish were baited and the rest were jigged. Saturday's trip for shark was a bust, but Sunday's charter for Phil Brill and party saw a big mixed bag of porgies, sea bass, big flounders and blacks make for a successful trip.

Last week we mistakingly printed the fare in the **Miss Freeport** ad as $8. It should have read $12 for the full day fluke trip. This was a

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Nat Shulman caught this 9¾ lb. fluke off the red side of the Ambrose Channel on live porgy bait aboard his son's boat. Subscriber Club Photo.

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typographical error. Tony reports that this Sunday he had fair fluking in the inlet on sand eels and squid.

Blue Fin II called to report there Friday charter fishing a local secret wreck enjoyed good catches of sea bass, going up to 3 pounds taken on sections of sand eel. Saturday's charter fished the HA area for bluefish up to 15 pounds in the morning. The fish sounded later on due to boat traffic. The bigger fish were taken on bananas and the smaller ones on jigs. Sunday's charter saw both boats of the **Blue Fin Fleet** fishing sea bass with an additional sprinkling of ling on local wrecks. BF II also fished the Sisters for two to three lb. blues later on but an earlier caught big ling took the pool.

Charterboat **Lucky Strike III** called to tell us that Sunday's fluke trip saw a good catch of fluke and snappers at the inlet and in front of the Coast Guard Station on sand eels and squid. Most of the action was at the change of tide. All the fluke were 20 inch fish. They had 30 fluke and 20 snappers.

Frank's Fishing Station reports that Willie Raimonda is now leading their Fluke Tourny with a 3 lb. 11 oz. fish taken on spearing and killies out of Jones Inlet. Lots of lafayettes, snappers and blue claw crabs on squid and worms and shiners. Bluefish two miles southeast of Jones Inlet as proven by Ed Salter who got 11 choppers in one hour, fish up to 14 pounds trolling an A-27 jig on wire. Some flounder being picked up from the hole at Swift Creek on bloodworms.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports a nice run of weakfish at the Meadowbrook and Loop bridges and towards the inlet on live snapper, sandworm or squid. An 8 lb weak was taken by one girl on live snapper. Kingfish are around hitting most small baitfish on the bottom. The fluke are still around also just not as many as before. Killies are working best. Flounders are being taken on clam at Swift Creek and off the CG Station. Blacks at the Meadowbrook Bridge on fiddlers and Green crabs.

Scotty's Marina reports that a 8 lb. fluke was taken off the Pt. Lookout Pier on sandeels. Lots of snappers are also being taken at the pier. Fluke fishing has been good

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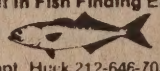

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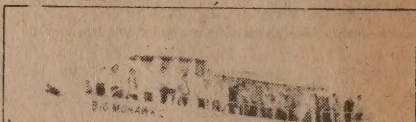

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in the inlet when the tide isn't moving too fast. Flounder from ¾ to 1 pound are hitting worms at the Coast Guard Station and Short Beach. Bass averaging 17 to 30 pounds are being trolled with umbrellas at the Tin Can Grounds. Blackfish are being picked off at the T Wreck and Roto Wreck. Blues from 6 to 10 pounds along with albacore and bonito are being trolled with feathers and chummed with bunker straight out of Jones Inlet in 160 feet of water.

Frank at **Doxsee Clam** reports that stripers are being chummed on bellies underneath the bridges mainly in the evenings and early morning hours. This is nothing super duper but appears to be consistent. Frank also informs us that he weighed in a 2 plus pound flounder taken from a local creek on clam and also that he weighed in a 115 lb. mako this week but details as to where and who caught it were lacking when we called. The best news would seem to be the bass on bellies.

The **Marie III** dropped a good tuna on Friday fishing southeast of the NB buoy on trolled red and white feathers. The day was bailed out by some trolled blues and then over a wreck for sea bass, blacks and porgies.

ISLAND PARK

Beckman's Tackle reports that bass are hitting live bunker on the bar in Jones Inlet. Fish up to 30½ pounds have been taken. Some smaller fish are hitting eels in the early morning and late eve. Porgies and snappers are plentiful in the area. Fluke of keeper size are being taken in Reynolds Channel, Jones Inlet and Rockaway Inlet on sand eels. Weakfish are being taken on sandworms on a high hook around the bridges.

L. to R. Mike Martin, John O'Connor and Roger Porcella with a 49 lb. bass taken by Roger under the Atlantic Beach Bridge.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Sy at **Hennings Fishing Station** tells us that Reynolds Channel is producing good fluke at buoys 5, 7 and 9 and also from the Hennings Dock to the Coast Guard Sta. close in to the dock. This is on sand eels and on both tides. Snappers are there in abundance from 8 to 10 inches in length and these are the best baits for you to catch and use for big fluke. The snappers are falling to shiners and small jigs. Tuna freaks are taking footballs and bigger fishing east—southeast of the HA on Saturday, in 120' of water. Sy weighed in a 56 pounder taken on a rigged squid and a 13 lb. 3 oz. and 14 pounder taken on red and white feathers. A few bass have been taken by surf casters flinging clams, fish from 5 to 8 pounds. The 28th st. wreck (If you can find it) is holding sea bass and porgies.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports snappers, porgies and lafayettes can be taken at the North and South Channel Bridges and at Beach Channel Drive. John Carlson and Tom Byrd fished Riis Park with sand eels and squid and came up with two fluke of 6½ and 3½ pounds. Weakfish and bass are here and there and are taking sandworms at night.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt. Joe Miller on the **Atomic II** reports very good fluking this past week and weekend having picked up about 100 percent worth from previous weeks. Best was off the State Park and also the blackside of Ambrose and the south side of Gedney. Sunday's pool was a 7 lb. fluke with most fish running from 2½ to 3 pounds on sand eels and spearing. Tuesday's high hook was 25 fluke and high hook went over 15 fish each day. Average is 6 to 8 fish a man. The night bluefishing has been very good with smaller fish being taken from the Three Sisters area and bigger blues taken at the HA vicinity.

The **Eagle** reports fluking has been very good this week and weekend fishing the black side of Ambrose and the State Park off the

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Contest Rules & Regulations

1. DATES-- The Contest will begin at midnight on May 1st and end at midnight on October 31st, 1977. Fish must be caught during this time frame and be confirmed as a new World Record by the International Gamefish Association (I.G.F.A.) no later than February 1st, 1978.

2. ENTRY FEE--There is no entry fee to participate in the Contest. The only requirement is that you MUST have been a subscriber of The Long Island Fisherman for at least 30 DAYS before the date that a fish was caught. Immediate members of a subscriber's family are also eligible if they are living together in the same household. Example: Mother, father, brother, sister, daughter, son.

3. ELIGIBLE SPECIES--The Contest has ten (10) eligible species: five inshore and five offshore. They are:

Inshore--	Offshore-
FLUKE	BLUE SHARK
WEAKFISH	MAKO SHARK
STRIPED BASS	WHITE SHARK
BLUEFISH	SWORDFISH
BLACKFISH	WHITE MARLIN

4. RULES--The winner of the Contest will be determined by fish caught by subscribers of The Long Island Fisherman that are recognized as new World Records by the I.G.F.A. The following rules will apply:
   a. Fish must be one of the ten eligible species
   b. Catch must be made sometime between midnight May 1st and midnight October 31st, 1977.
   c. Fish must be taken in Long Island Waters.
   d. All catches must be made under the rules and regulations set up by the I.G.F.A. These rules and regulations will be printed in the May 5th issue of The Long Island Fisherman, and will be available after that date for any angler sending in a self-addressed envelope to The Fisherman.
   e. The catch must be CONFIRMED as a new World Record by the I.G.F.A. by February 1, 1978.
   f. New records can be for any of the I.G.F.A. line classes: 6-lb., 12-lb., 20-lb., 30-lb., 50-lb., 80-lb., 130-lb., or All Tackle, for both Men and Women.

5. WEIGH-STATIONS--Any of the Long Island Fisherman Official Weigh-in Stations may be used for a PRELIMINARY weigh-in of a possible world

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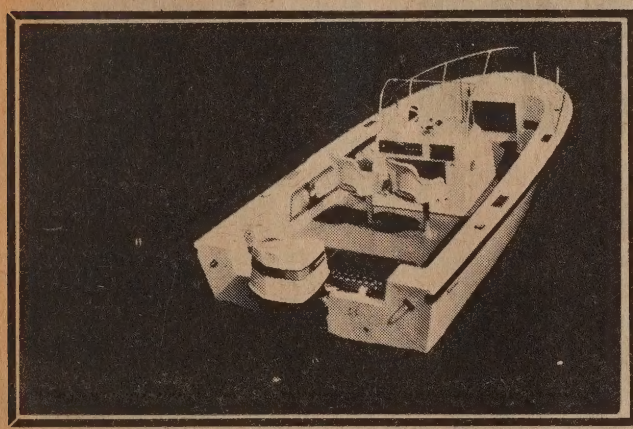

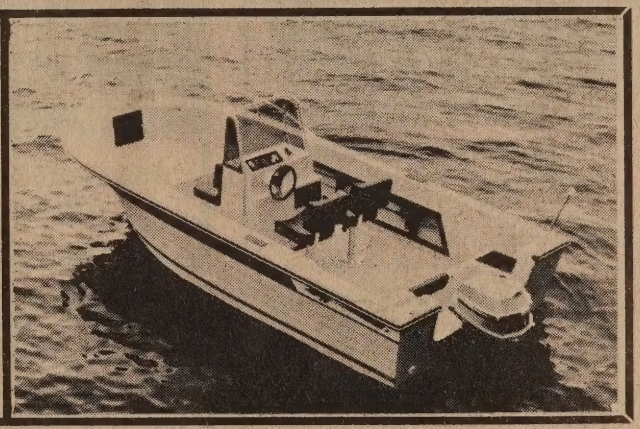

record fish. If it appears that the fish is a possible record, it must then be OFFICIALLY weighed in at STARFISH MARINE in East Islip, New York. After the Official Weigh-In Starfish Marine will prepare the necessary record applications that must be sent to the I.G.F.A. It is the anglers responsibility to transport his catch to and from Starfish Marine.

6. CURRENT RECORDS--For the convenience of eligible anglers, the current recognized records by the I.G.F.A. will be published in the May 5th issue of The Long Island Fisherman. Periodic updates of new records set while the contest is in progress will also be published in the pages of The Fisherman.

7. TIES--In the event that more than one subscriber sets a new World Record, the winner will be decided by the following criteria:
   a. The angler setting the most I.G.F.A. records during the contest will be the winner.
   b. In the event that no angler sets more than one record, but two or more anglers set a single record, the following point system will be utilized to place the winners:
      1. One point will be scored for each percentage point that the new record beat the previously held record, based on weight. Example: If the new record is 25 lbs. and the old record was 20 lbs., the new record is 25% more weight. Score 25 points.
      2. One point will also be scored for every year that prior record existed. Example: If the old record was set in May 1967 and the new record is set in 1977, score 10 points.

8. PRIZES--The Grand Prize will be the winners choice of a 1978 Grady White Center Console a Mako 20, which will be awarded by Starfish Marine. If more than one new I.G.F.A. approved World Record is set, there will be a consolation prize for the 2nd highest point fish of $500, 3rd highest $250 and $50 for each additional record.

9. JUDGES--The decision of the judges will be final.

10. Employees of Starfish Marine or The Long Island Fisherman and their immediate family members are prohibited from participating in the Contest. Anglers that have had an article published in The Fisherman within the past three years are also ineligible.

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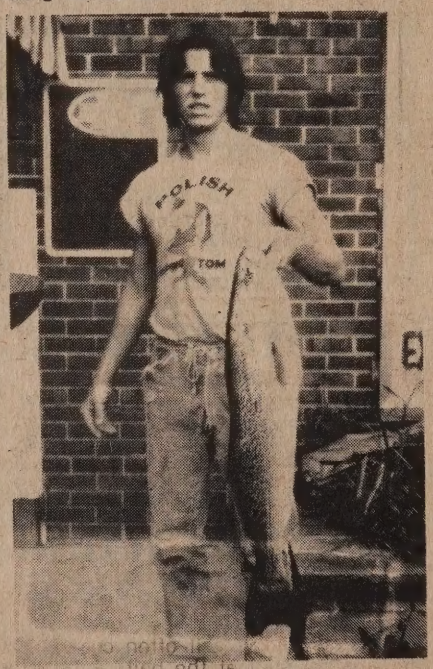
Jersey coast with sand eels and squid. The boat's fluke derby has gone up to $750. An 8 lb. 6 oz. fluke is the new leader, caught this week by Steve Cohen of Brooklyn. Night bluefishing has been very good, fishing the Three Sisters for three to five pound blues. Sat. night was a slaughter.

The **Pilot II** reports that he is catching lots of ling and porgies off the Jersey coast on clam. Fares are getting very good catches.

Capt. Joe on the **Blue Sea III** reports bluefishing excellent though it slowed down on the weekend due to all the boat traffic and the ripping moon tide. Big fish are taking jigs and bananas and also bait now during the days. On night trips the fish seem to be smaller. Joe is fishing the HA area during the day and fishing from the Farms to Klondike at night. Joe says the quantities of fish are very good.

Joe at **Salvo's Bait and Tackle** reports fluke at the Tin Can, particularly at buoy 4 being very good on squid and sand eels. Joe said he weighed in a lot of 3 to 5½ pound fish this week and weekend. Stripers have been spotty but things have certainly picked up very nicely at the Tin Can with 12 to 30 pound stripers being taken on worms drifted on the bottom. Trolled spoons and umbrellas ar are producing good numbers of jumbo blues from the Manhattan Beach College west to Norton's Pt. Loads of snappers on spearing and also lafayettes and porgies on worms all along the sea wall.



Bill Surowiec took this 8 lb. 8 oz. weakfish in the Fort Wadsworth area on a Atom popper. Photo courtesy of Santo's Sport Shop.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that there is a slow pick of big blues from 8 to 14 pounds at Fort Wadsworth where they are hitting plugs, swimmers and poppers to South Beach and the Berger Avenue storm sewers where most fish are hitting bait. Bass from shorts to five pounds can be caught on worms at Cliff St. and Penny Beach. Joline Avenue in Princess Bay is producing small blues from 2 to 4 pounds on cut bait and small poppers at low tide. The Staten Island area is infested with snappers and lafayettes. The best areas to get sand porgies are at pier 7, 8, 17 and 18.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

Capt. George Porter of the **Brand X** called to say that his special trip on Wednesday was very successful on big blues in the Race. Just like old times, said George. The poolfish went 17 lbs. The **Brand X** is now fishing blues every day, sailing time 8 am daily. George says we are making very good catches on every trip.

A.P. White Bait and Tackle reports fluke and weakfish in the channel off Greenport Breakwater on squid and sandeels on a high-low rig. The bottom hook is for the fluke, of course, with sandeel and squid and the top hook with a strip of squid for weaks. The fluke are running from 3-6 lbs and the weaks up to 10 lbs.

A.P. White Bait Shop reported a good number of school stripers taken last week in Plum Gut. Blackfishing picked up a little bit around Gull Island. There were reasonable catches of weakfish in the Channel off the Greenport Jetty. Pigeon's Rip and the Race are the best suggestions for blues.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reports good porgy fishing at buoys 12, 14, 15, and 17 on the east side of Jessup's Neck. A few weakfish are being picked up on worms at the Steps. Porgies are being taken at Mulford Pt., Petty's Bite and Rocky Pt. in the Sound. Fluke fishing has tapered off and a days work will produce only about 6 or so fish. Blackfish can be picked up in the rocks at Plum Gut Lighthouse. These fish are averaging 3 pounds and are hitting green crabs, fiddlers and clams.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that weakfish are being taken on worms and squid at Rose's Grove and Nassau Pt. Porgies are hitting worms and skimmer clams at buoys 22, 23, 25, 29, and 30. Wm. and George Hallaway had 81 weakfish to 3 pounds and 127 porgies to 1½ pounds fishing the Rose's Grove area. One rental came in with 200 to 300 porgies for his day of work.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle Center reports that porgies are plentiful in both the Sound and Bay. Rose's Grove is producing weaks from 1 to 3 pounds on whole sand worms and squid. Blues are being picked up at Horton's Point from 3 to 12 pounds on umbrellas and single tubes. Blacks are hitting green and fiddler crabs at the Pipeline at Northville.

JAMESPORT

Jamesport Bait and Tackle reports porgies and snappers are plentiful in the area. Weakfish can be had at Robbins Island and Roanoke Pt. These fish are averaging 1 pounds and taking squid and sandworms. Blackfish are starting to show in the Sound and a few were taken this past week. Blues averaging 4 to 6 pounds are hitting tubes from Horton's Pt. to Roanoke.

ROCKY POINT

Rocky Pt. Fishing Stop reports blues from 1½ to 5 pounds are hitting the beaches from

edar to Shoreham in the mornings and in the ves and are taking Hopkins, Kastmasters nd other tins. Blues at buoys 9 and 11 are eing taken best with Sekora tubes. There are ome weaks mixed in with these fish. Porgy shing was great over the weekend with 1 to 2 ounders with an occasional 3 pounder hitting quid, worms and clams. The fluke fishing as been steady with not many being caught ut the ones that are caught are nice sized sh. Blacks have moved in along the beaches nd are small in size.

SELDEN

Ken at the **Angler's Den** reported 3-6 lb. lues between buoys 9 and 11. Bass from 8 to 4 pounds were taken last week off Pt. efferson. Fluke are plentiful but you have to et your bait down past the zillions of nappers. Bonito have been taken between uoys 9 and 11 on umbrella rigs. White tubes eem to be the best producer for the bonito. Veakfishing is very spotty.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that porgies are all over and are ranging from one o one and a half pounds and hitting worms and skimmers. Fluke are being taken right outside the Mt. Sinai Harbor on squid, sand eels and live killies. Some good sized blues are being caught on umbrellas at buoy 9. Snappers are plentiful in the area.

Dick's Sporting Goods reports excellent porgy fishing from the shore. These are big ish some over 1½ pounds that are hitting on sand worms. Big fluke between buoys 11 and 9 on sandworm and squid. Pussycats have been hot on weaks, blues, and fluke in Dick's area, he says. Blues up to 10 pounds are being taken by surfcasters off Miller Place Beach on Hopkins, plugs, cast bananas and on PussyCats. Dick says that a local old timer, fisherman and friend of all in the area, Poppy Poppa Bear, age 79 passed away this week on his way to his boat for yet another day of fishing. Dick says that he fished nearly every day of his life and was a friend to all in the area. He stopped in every day with his catch and was a very active man, fishing up until the end. Dick said that Poppa Bear will be sorely missed by all who knew him in the Miller Place area.

Bob Besancon of Northport and his 6 lb. 4 oz. fluke taken on squid and spearing at Callahans. Photo courtesy of Maes Way Fishing Station.

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Fish Talk: WHITE MARLIN

(Continued from page 8.)

greedy predators will often come back for another shot at the bait. A favorite trick of many skippers involves a very rapid retrieve of the bait when a marlin rises behind the bait, but is reluctant to strike. The illusion to the fish must be one of an escaping prey and they will often become increasingly interested in it, charging after it with reckless abandon.

RELEASE OR NOT TO RELEASE. That is the question. Some experts believe that the chances for survival of a hooked billfish are slim, while others believe that most fish will survive if the leader is cut. We do know that the fish have little chance of survival if they are brought aboard before release. The best advice seems to be to tag the fish with appropriate equipment, and then cut the leader. The proper hook will corrode rather quickly, and scientists are eager for any data on the fish that might be gleaned from tag retrievals.

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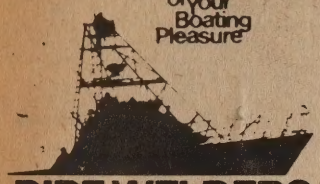

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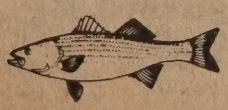

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KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports that porgy fishing remained excellent all throughout the weekend with rental boats returning with 1 to 2 bushels of fish. Fluke were for those who were very lucky or very patient. Several schools of surface feeding blues in the 2 to 3 lb. range were reported at dusk in the Smithtown Bay area and a few jumbo blues were caught at Eaton's Neck on cut bunker and mackerel. Friday, Charlie Savvas brought in 300 porgies, some in the 2½ to 3 lb. class taken off Mackimah Beach on sandworms, a chum pot helped. Also on Friday John Koliner and Tommy Cutler took 60 pounds of porgies and topped the box with 2 blues. Sunday morning big Ralph from Zara brought in 8 blues to 4 pounds from Crane's Neck on umbrellas.

PORT JEFFERSON

The **Betty W** reports porgies remain steady with an average of 30-50 fish per man. Blacks are improving steadily. Saturday's poolfish was a 4½ lb black caught by John Lass of Farmingville. Sunday's poolfish was a 5 lb fluke taken by Jack Sklee of New Hyde Park.

John at **Caraftis Fishing Station** reported 6-12 lb. blues between buoys 11 and 9 and in the Cedar Beach area. Trolling deep with wire line and umbrella rigs are producing the fish. Old Field Pt. is still the best spot for porgies. Mt. Misery Shoals best for fluke. Most of the fish are keepers with a few 6 pounders. From dusk to about 10:30 P.M. seems to be about the best time for the weakfish off Belletree Pt. on sandworms on the bottom or trolling white umbrella rigs.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowmann's Sporting Goods** reported last Sunday showed the first good signs of fluke making an entrance into Cold Spring Harbor. There's lots of bait in the harbor which could attract good numbers of

Robert McNaughton with his catch of blues from 7 to 14 pounds. Photo courtesy of Bowmans Sporting Goods.

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fish. A few blues around 7 pounds have been taken trolling umbrella rigs with white tubes at dawn and dusk. Weakfish around 6 pounds were taken at Valley Grove between Sand City and the Coast Guard Station. Spinners, and large sandworms along with Rebel plugs have been the best for weakfish. Fluke are the best daytime bet. You want to drift on a moving tide, using squid strips with a spinner or sandeel. The area between can 13 and the CG Sta. produced fluke from 4 to 7 pounds. Striper fishing is very spotty with no guarantees. The pros fishing Eaton's Neck are getting some bass using clam chum and clam bellies for bait. The biggest snapper blues are off the hot water discharge at Lilco.

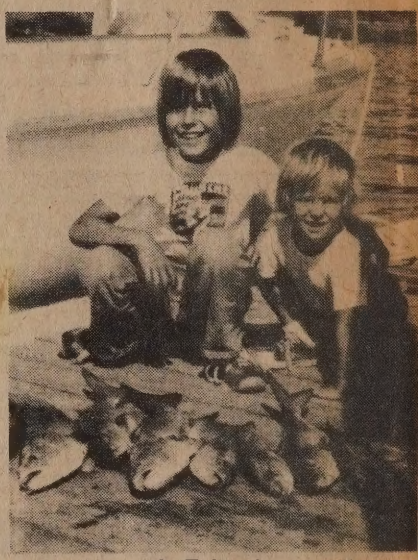
CENTEREACH

The new owner of the **Bait Bucket**, Fred Borge reports bunker are all over the place with big blues underneath them. The blues are being caught by bunker dunkers, naturally. Large bass are taking big eels off the Wading River Beaches at night. Six bonito were taken by one customer just outside Mt. Sinai Harbor. Weaks and fluke are between buoys 9 and 11 on squid and sand eels. Snapper fishing is excellent, with the baby blues now ten to twelve inches. Mike Sabrin of Holbrook on Friday boated a 15 lb. 8 oz. bluefish on bunker just outside Moriches Inlet.

HUNTINGTON

Four Winds Bait and Tackle reports that fluke fishing is excellent at Lloyd Pt. on both Friday and Saturday. Many fluke were taken up to 6 pounds. Andy Hoffman took 12 fluke to 6¾ pounds on spearing and snapper fillet. Porgies from 1 to 3 pounds can be taken on East Bar with worms. One boat took 300 porgies from ¾ to 2 pounds fishing worms on Thursday. Blues are a moderate pick at buoys 13 and 11B wire lining umbrellas. These fish are running up to 14 pounds. Weakfishing is holding its own at Diamond Pt. at night. These fish are hitting Tri-Fin Eel Worms, Salty Dogs, yellow bucktails, live snappers and sandworms.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports that fluke are being taken at Lloyd Pt. drifting squid, sand eels or snappers. Some blues were taken Sunday morning in Cold Spring Harbor on umbrellas. Blues were also taken south of buoy 11B in 35' of water by anchoring and putting mackerel or bunker bait on the bottom. Large porgies are being caught at Eaton's Neck and Marshall Field. Snappers are all over and are hitting shiners and small tins in the harbors and bays.



Lance and Eric Jaeger from Syosset with a little help from dad caught this assortment of blues, weaks and porgies aboard the charterboat "Foxy Lady" out of Huntington.

CITY ISLAND

Jack at **Jack's Bait and Tackle** reporte bluefishing spotty but there are fish aroun One of the party boats hesitated about takir the fares bluefishing but the crowd insiste about going nonetheless. The boat fish near the K buoy near Hempstead Harbor a chummed up 40 blues between 9 and pounds.

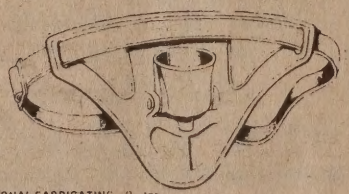
NEW ROCHELLE

Capt. Pete Pearson of the **Klondike VI** h been making long runs down past the Atlan Highlands in N.J. to find fish for his fare Last Thursday was a super day with so ma blues taken they couldn't even count the One fare had 25 fish himself. The fish rang from 8 to 18 pounds with the majority bei 10 to 16 pounds. Because of the long ru needed to find bluefish, the **Klondike** w return to bottom fishing in closer waters.

The Long Island **FISHERMAN CONTEST**

FISHING TRIP

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.



NATIONAL FABRICATING [illegible] Inc.
130 Lambert Ave., Copiague, N.Y. 11726

★ ***Bonus Prize*** ★

Contest winners also will receive a NAFAB GIMBAL ROD BELT, the new lightweight unbreakable plastic gimbal for boat & surf

LAST WEEK'S WINNER:

Leo Nyman of Wantagh is the winner this week for our contest. He has been sent a check for $40 and has also chosen a free fishing trip for two aboard the Capt. Joseph.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:

540-BGR

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ac
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
Marlin III	Capt. Joseph Fleet	FREEPORT Aloma II	

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	10:51	11:1c	11:49	—	11:47	—	12:10	12:34	2:18	2:32	2:04	2:2c	10:55	11:1c	9/1
FRI	11:36	11:56	12:08	12:33	12:04	12:33	12:57	1:23	2:46	3:00	2:48	3:09	11:37	11:58	9/2
SAT	—	12:23	12:53	1:21	12:47	1:18	1:45	2:11	3:20	3:36	3:33	3:55	—	12:22	9/3
SUN	12:43	1:15	1:39	2:10	1:36	2:03	2:38	3:05	4:00	4:21	4:23	4:44	12:45	1:07	9/4
MON	1:37	2:11	2:31	3:07	2:24	2:51	3:34	4:02	4:50	5:14	5:18	5:41	1:31	1:55	9/5
TUE	2:36	3:08	3:31	4:04	3:15	3:43	4:35	4:58	5:48	6:15	6:16	6:39	2:24	2:49	9/6
WED	3:35	4:04	4:32	5:03	4:16	4:40	5:34	5:50	7:39	7:48	7:16	7:36	3:24	3:48	9/7
THUR	4:33	4:57	5:29	5:56	5:17	5:39	6:27	6:40	8:46	8:54	8:12	8:30	4:27	4:50	9/8

How To Use Tide Tables

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R. I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

9/3	6:27	7:31
9/8	6:32	7:22
9/13	6:38	7:14
9/18	6:43	7:05
9/23	6:48	6:56
9/28	6:53	6:47

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/13	9/20	9/27	9/5

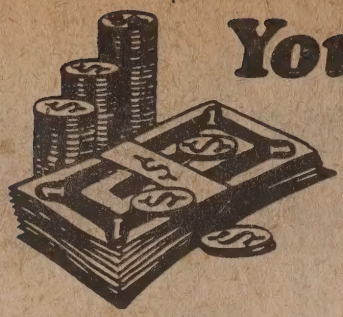
The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM	Major	PM	Major
THURS.	8:00	**2:10**	8:20	**2:35**
FRI.	8:50	**3:05**	9:15	**3:25**
SAT.	9:40	**3:50**	10:00	**4:15**
SUN.	10:30	**4:40**	10:50	**5:05**
MON.	11:15	**5:30**	11:40	**5:55**
TUES.	11:55	**6:15**	—	**6:40**
WED.	12:25	**7:00**	12:30	**7:25**
THURS.	1:10	**7:45**	1:40	**8:10**

DON'T LET THIS ONE GET AWAY!



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